

Index

 Page 5A /iewpoint Page 9A Chaplain MWR news • Page 10A Community Events Page 13A

Sports and Leisure Page 14A

Friday, February 13, 2004

Published for the Department of Defense and the Fort Gordon community

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UPDATE

63rd, 235th return

There is a homecoming ceremony for the 63rd Signal Battalion, and an element of the 235th Signal Company, 56th Signal Battalion, at 3 p.m. Friday in Alexander Hall.

The 63rd and 235th deployed in 2003 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom where they provided voice, video, data, and satellite services to customers at various bases throughout the Central Command Area.

Circus in town

The Royal Hanneford Circus will be at Fort Gordon's Barton Field Feb. 26-29.

Showtimes are Feb. 26-27, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 28. 10:30 a.m., 2 and 7 p.m.; and Feb. 29, 2 and 4:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for ages 13 and over, \$5 for ages 3-12, and free for children under 3. Tickets can be purchased at the Big Top entrance, Fort Gordon Credit Union and Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre.

Gate 1 construction

Construction at Gate 1 is

During construction the gate will remain open, but the traffic flow will be restricted at times. Some of the lanes will be blocked to allow for installation of force protection enhancements. Due to the restricted lane flow, personnel who normally use Gate 1 are strongly encouraged to use Gates 2, 3 and 5 during the construction.

The construction of a visitors center and vehicle registration building at the gate will help Fort Gordon meet the Department of Defense requirements for access control to the post.

For information call the Installation Operations Center at 791-9747.

Town Hall meeting

There is a Town Hall meeting for all TRADOC and garrison command civilian employees only (appropriated and nonappropriated fund) from 1-2:30 p.m. **Feb. 24** in Alexander Hall. For information, call 791-4565.

Tech show

The annual Georgia Information Technology Show is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Gordon Club. The event is free to all personnel.

Major technology companies will demonstrate the latest, fastest and "best of show" computers, related hardware and accesso-

For more information call (888)282-2262, e-mail info@atc-expo.com or go to www.atc-expo.com/

Culture used to enlighten youth

Pvt. Armando Monroig Signal staff

Good Neighboring Korean Day was held Friday at Alexander Hall from 9 a.m. to noon, with members of the Youth Challenge Academy attending.

The event was held as a way to educate the YCA cadets on the Korean culture and send them a message: take advantage of opportunities.

The Youth Challenge Academy program is a structured, quasi-military training and mentoring program for at-risk youth that develops the life skills, educational levels and employment potential of highschool students no longer enrolled in a traditional school.

The event consisted of opening remarks by retired Lt. Col. Janet Zimmerman, director of the Youth Challenge Academy on post, who introduced one of the speakers at the event, Sunny Park, commissioner of the White House initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Throughout Park's speech, he showed the audience videos and photos of Korea and talked United States has had on Korea and how Korean Americans have impacted the United States.

"This country has been so good to me," said Park. "I came here 30 years ago and so many people help me."

He is a formation of many people's good advice, said Park and now hopes to do the same for the young cadets in attendance.

"I want to help this country," said Park. "So, I try to invest in young people."



Photo by Pvt. Armando Monroig

Students from the Tae-Guek-Won Martial Art Academy in Martinez break boards while demonstrating different kicking techniques during their Tae Kwon Do performance at the Korean Day event held at Alexander Hall Friday.

young people's minds a belief in themselves that they can achieve success, just as he has found success in his life about the Korean culture, through sheer hard work and touching on the impact the determination with a little help

from others along the way. After Park spoke to the YCA cadets, he introduced the guest speaker, Jean Ellis, filling in for her husband Gen. Larry Ellis, commanding general of U.S. Army Forces Command, who was unable to attend the event.

Ellis spoke to the audience about her life, touching on the military, her travels around the world as a military wife and lessons she learned throughout her life.

Korea, being one of the many places she has lived, was

He said he hopes to instill in a big focus of her speech to the cadets, reiterating some of the points Park had made ear-

> She emphasized what it takes to become a successful person, citing her husband as a good example of what they could become with work hard, staying focused and making a commitment to oneself.

Ellis also pointed out those same attributes about Koreans, adding that she saw firsthand how they turned around their

economy by working together. "The message I was trying to send to them (the cadets) was that they have an opportunity," said Ellis, "and what was shared with them are those keys to success.'

She wanted them to under-

stand they need to set goals for themselves, and that by being involved with YCA they were heading in the right direction and were doing just that.

"I think there was a real positive feeling here with the cadets," said Ellis. "I think been given an opportunity and that this special event today shows there's great support for them.'

After Ellis finished speaking, there was a question and answer period, giving the cadets a chance to interact with the guest speaker.

Following the question and answer period and a short video on the martial art of Tae Kwon Do, students from the Tae-Guek-Won Martial Art Academy in Martinez performed a Tae Kwon Do demonstration for the audience.

Some of the cadets present shared their thoughts on the "I think it was terrific," said

cadet Pvt. Ricky Mack. "It's they understand they have something I've never seen before. It's new to me."

Fellow YCA cadet Pfc. Danielle Gaines agreed with Mack.

"I thought it was really good," she said of the Tae Kwon Do demonstration. "It made me want to do something like that."

She said the Korean Day experience was a good one because it gave her the opportunity to enjoy something

Fisher House waives fees for injured servicemember's families

Denise Allen Signal staff

Before Pfc. Trueman Muhrer-Irwin left for the Middle East a year ago, his mother, Laura Irwin, bought him a map of Baghdad. "I didn't even know I'd be in Baghdad,"

said Muhrer-Irwin.



Photo by Denise Allen

Pfc. Trueman Muhrer-Irwin (left) was injured in Baghdad Nov. 12. He has been receiving treatment at Eisenhower **Army Medical Center for injuries to his** foot. The Fisher House is allowing families of those injured in the theater of operations, such his mother Laura Irwin, to stay at Fisher House free.

As part of the 124th Infantry of the Florida National Guard, Muhrer-Irwin was in the gun turret of a Humvee on Nov. 12 in Baghdad, when a roadside bomb was detonated, killing his best friend, Spc. Robert

A piece of shrapnel pierced Muhrer-Irwin's foot. His boot kept the shrapnel lodged in the exit wound.

After initial treatment, Muhrer-Irwin was sent back to the United States and has been receiving treatment at Eisenhower Army Medical Center since Nov. 19. His mother is currently visiting him and staying at the Fisher House.

The Fisher House is currently waiving fees for families of Soldiers injured in the theater of operations.

At Eisenhower, he underwent several surgeries and subsequent hyperbaric treatments. His parents, who are from Chicago, have taken turns staying at the Fisher House.

"We love the Fisher House," said Irwin. "I had the opportunity to meet some interesting people – families of patients."

Many of the most recent guests at the Fisher House come there for similar reasons. One Soldier has been staying at the house for six months while he receives treatments on his hand from injuries received in Iraq. The Fisher family has donated homes to

many military installations, but it is up to someone else to pay for the home's upkeep and its operating expenses.

Under normal circumstances, families pay up to \$10 a night at the homes with

See Fisher House, page 2A

Hospital changes pharmacy policy

Jennifer Chipman EAMC Public Affairs Officer

In ongoing efforts to increase access to patient care, the Eisenhower Army Medical Center Pharmacy is making important changes in the way it does business.

Beginning Jan. 1, the EAMC mandatory call-in program went into effect.

"In response to the needs of the military community and Army Family Advocacy Program here at Fort Gordon, our pharmacy has started taking steps to decrease the waiting times in the outpatient pharmacy," said Maj. Keith Wagner, assistant chief of the pharmacy.

"Our beneficiaries now must use one of the three ways available to refill their medications," said Wagner.

Beneficiaries who need their prescriptions refilled must call them in at 787-1710, use the DDEAMC web-site refill page, or use the PX mail-in prescription refill request form available at the main and PX refill pharmacies. The pharmacy is no longer accepting walk in refill requests.

"We have implemented this program to help decrease the time our customers have to wait for their medications at the main

outpatient pharmacy," said Lt. Col. Don Goode, chief of the pharmacy. "This adds up to over 70,000 prescriptions a

month. "Eisenhower's pharmacy is the fourth busiest pharmacy in the Army," said Goode. "Five to six prescriptions per minute are filled here every hour we are open for business.'

Prescriptions called in or entered into the refill web site before 10 a.m. will be ready for pick up after 10 a.m. the next morning. Both methods afford the customer the option of picking up their medicine at the medical center or at the PX pharmacy. The pharmacy staff is encouraging anyone who needs a prescription refilled to choose the PX pharmacy as the site to pick up their medica-

According to Maj. Keith Wagner, all refill prescriptions are filled at the PX pharmacy. If a patient requests to pick up their medications at the EAMC pharmacy, the staff will transport refills there for pick up.

Those with an appointment at Eisenhower may pick up refills at the same time by calling in refills before 10 a.m. the day before the appointment.

See Refills, page 3A

Students get Signal lesson

Denise Allen Signal staff

Some Evans Middle School students had their education augmented at Fort Gordon Tuesday at the Signal Corps Museum.

Teri Seader's gifted sixth grade social studies class got a combined lesson in Germany's history, World War II, the Cold War and the fall of the Berlin Wall, plus some history on the Signal Corps including a demonstration of wigwag flags.

German liaison officer Lt. Col. Rainer Schwiebert presented the lecture on Germany, while Mike Rodgers of the Signal Corps Museum gave the presentation on the Signal Corps.

Seader said this was the second year she had brought her sixth graders to Fort Gordon.

"Last year, when they came back from this, they never stopped talking about it," she said.

Students made their own Signal flags and sent messages to each other.

'It's just been wonderful for their education," she said. She said she plans to do

some of the same things with this year's group of students. One of their assignments was to think about what it

would have been like to have



Mike Rodgers, exhibits manager at the Signal Corps Museum, shows a wigwag flag to Matthew Breithaupt, Ally Panzella (middle) and Aja Hoeller (front) during a field trip to the museum Tuesday.

lived in Germany during the Cold War.

Schwiebert told the students that although the eastern part of Germany during the Cold War was named the German Democratic Republic, it was anything but democratic. With only one political

party, East Germany was communist, he said.

Student Matthew Breithaupt, who hadn't yet been born when the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, said they had learned about the Berlin Wall in class and how the people must have felt when it was torn down

He was surprised to learn there was a piece of that wall on display in the museum. Seader said Fort Gordon is

an excellent resource. "One of my main goals is that people can understand the positive impact Fort Gordon has on the educational system," she said.

WILLIAM E. CASSARA Attorney At Law

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STATE OF THE ART

Intelligence 'not a perfect art'

Kathleen Rhem

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Intelligence is not a perfect art or science, the nation's top military leader said here Tuesday. Still, he said, he remains confident that members of the intelligence community are "trying to do the best work they can for this country of ours."

Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said during a Pentagon briefing that the nation's policy makers learn a lot from both intelligence successes and fail-

"(Intelligence agencies) have had great success, and they have sometimes missed the mark; that's the nature of their business," Myers said. "You will never make the baseball all-star team in the intelligence business."

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld agreed. He said he and Myers often feel they make decisions with imperfect intelligence information, but that it's their job to make decisions based on the best information avail-

That's why organizations conduct lessonslearned reviews, Rumsfeld said. He cited the special commission President Bush formed Feb. 6 to look into intelligence failures and successes leading up to Operation Iraqi Freedom as a good opportunity to glean lessons learned.

He said such commissions have the luxury of concentrating on a specific issue, and often come to conclusions policy makers and advis-

ers couldn't see. Senior officials are "drinking out of a fire hose," Rumsfeld said, explaining they're often inundated with competing priori-

Attackers don't need to be perfect, Rumsfeld said. They only need to be "effective or lucky once in a while, and they can make a dent."

For defenders it's another story. One slip can lead to tragedy. "It's impossible to defend in every location against every conceivable kind of attack at every time of the day or night. It is not possible," the secretary said. "Therefore, the only way it can be done is to go after the people who are doing it, and to find them and to capture or kill them," he added.

When asked if he'd view intelligence information more cautiously in the future, Rumsfeld explained he's cautious normally – particularly when lives are at risk.

"You just don't do that lightly," he said. "I began in this job cautious; I remain cautious and careful about it."

However, he added, he's also realistic. Rumsfeld noted the intelligence leading up to Operation Iraqi Freedom had been relatively consistent from several sources across many

"The task is, if ... you're going to be faced with imperfect knowledge, which you are, and you're faced with increasingly lethal threats, where is the threshold?" he asked. "How do you deal with that? And that's something that this country and other countries and societies are going to have to deal with."





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Fisher House

From page 1A

reduction of fees according to

Fisher House at Fort Gor-

don has very little money coming in right now except for the money it receives through donations from the Combined Federal Campaign, according to Diana Plowman, a Fisher House volunteer.

To offset some of the shortfall, the Eisenhower Health Services auxiliary will be sponsoring its Eighth Annual Golf Tournament Extravaganza to raise money for the Fisher House. The tournament starts at 1 p.m. March 26 at the Gor-

don Lakes Golf Course. Entry fees are \$50 per player or \$200 per team. Plowman said she hopes a

minimum of \$10,000 will be generated by the tournament. Milton Reuben Chevrolet has

donated a new car for the person who hits a hole in one. Other prizes include a new motorcycle and a set of golf Also, for those who don't

like to play golf, donations to the Fisher House will be accepted. Plowman said checks must

is for the Fort Gordon Fisher House or the money will be placed in a general Fisher House fund and may end up at another location.

Tournament registration deadline is March 22. In case of bad weather, the tournament will be rescheduled April 16. For tournament informa-

tion, call 787-2621, 860-5029

or 790-9025. Entry forms are available at the Fort Gordon Fisher House, Gordon Lakes Golf Club. EAMC Safety Office, room 3E

16H, or the EAMC DCA office, Room 4B-09. specifically state the donation

Only you can fix your credit

Pvt. Armando Monroig Signal staff

Getting into debt with credit cards is an easy trap to stumble into; especially considering the powerful temptation credit cards provide. The lure of instant gratification – making a purchase immediately instead of saving for it - can prove too strong for many, especially young servicemembers who may be on their own for the

getting laid off, or simply poor money management skills.

Whatever the reason, there are dozens of unscrupulous agencies preying upon already vulnerable individuals. These agencies often claim to "repair" credit for those seeking help.

Lanny Valentine, consumer affairs specialist for Army Community Service, said credit repair is illegal in Georgia.

"When it comes down to it, there is nobody that can remove accurate derogatory information from your credit report," he said. "These companies use all kinds of different tactics to

Valentine said they are occasionally successful, but they don't do anything that a person can't do for themselves for free, adding that at times they use illegal tactics.

"A great many of them have been caught doing things that are blatantly illegal, against federal law and end up getting the consumer in trouble along with themselves," he said.

John Linney, a legal assistance attorney at the Judge Others may experience Advocate General legal assiscredit problems due to injury, tance office, explained that many of these credit repair companies use parcel services other than the U.S. Postal Service in order to avoid mail fraud charges.

> He added many credit repair scams involve companies asking for a significant amount of money up front before any work is done.

> He said some unsuspecting individuals who fall for these scams send as much as \$500 and get nothing in return, or get a book or pamphlet sent in the mail telling them what to do.

> "If it's too good to be true, it is," said Linney of all con

sumer fraud transactions.

Valentine said these companies try to go around the law in order to correct a person's

"They're not actually correcting the person's credit, they're trying to get them somebody else's credit," he

The only thing that can take accurate information off somebody's credit report is time, said Valentine. He said the general rule is accurate derogatory credit information stays on for seven years from the date of the last activity on the ac-

Valentine said everyone is targeted by the fraudulent activity of credit repair, with the scams now moving to the Internet.

Linney said if consumers want to get an idea what credit repair scams are all about, all they have to do is go on-line and type credit repair in a search engine and will find a long list of them.

In addition to credit repair scams on-line, some attorneys complicate the matter with misleading consumers by advertis-

ing chapter 13 bankruptcies as credit repair, Valentine said.

"People tend to get desperate and do things they wouldn't normally do," Valentine said. Linney echoed the senti-

"Our country has become so addicted to credit, that people will do anything in order to protect their credit report," said Linney. "When people became that desperate for credit, it became an opportunity for scammers."

Typically, many credit repair scams are wrapped up in other scams such as identity theft, Valentine added.

Valentine said credit repair companies use the identity of a person who has good credit or no credit, and give it to an individual trying to repair theirs.

Another tactic used by these scammers is getting a tax identification number from the Internal Revenue Service and using it to apply for credit.

"It's a blatant violation of federal law," he said. "They are really setting consumers up for

See Credit, page 12A



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Photo by Spc. Leslie Pearson

Cast members from the Davidson Fine Arts High School drama department in Augusta perform the choreopoem For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf at Alexander Hall Tuesday. The play was a part of Fort Gordon's African American/Black History Month Command Program.

Refills

From page 1A

As with pharmacies across the country, Eisenhower is also feeling the crunch of the pharmacist shortage.

Taking command

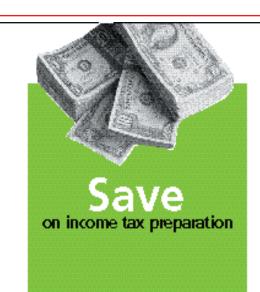
"With this shortage and the sheer volume of prescriptions we handle every day, our wait times have increased," said Wagner. "However, patient safety must remain our number one priority with 100 percent accuracy when dispensing medications.'

Every prescription leaving both pharmacy locations is screened by a pharmacist for possible clinical interactions, drug duplications, proper dosing and instructions for use and

to ensure the correct medicine

is being dispensed. "Not accepting walk-in refill prescription requests after Dec. 30 has put us in a better position to increase access to patient care and make our customers' wait times shorter, while ensuring they receive the medications they need in the safest way possible," said Goode. "We are asking our patients to help us to serve them better.'

For more information about the new mandatory call in refill program, call Wagner at 787-2208. For questions about the pharmacy, call 787-7010.



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And they danced

Eleven servicemembers from the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course 74B001-04 volunteered free time Friday evening dancing and socializing with individuals at the Senior Adult Valentine's Ball. The annual event, sponsored by the Augusta Recreation and Parks Department, was held at Julian Smith Casino. Pictured above is Staff Sgt. Joseph Clarke, socializing with one of the 50 individuals that attended the ball.

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Tax changes: What's new for 2003 returns

Augusta, GA – Changes in tax laws will affect how many families file their 2003 tax re-

The child tax credit and the child and dependent care credit amounts have increased. Also there's some relief for those who have suffered from the "marriage penalty." Lower income families who qualify for the earned income tax credit can take advantage of increased income and credit amounts. Adoption credit amounts have also increased.

"The child tax credit increase has been a confusing issue for many taxpayers this year. We hope to provide a better understanding of how this new change will affect American families filing their 2003 returns," said John Hewitt, CEO of Liberty Tax Service.

The child tax credit increased to \$1,000 per child for 2003, and 25 million taxpayers received an advance child tax credit check during the summer of 2003.

When filing a 2003 tax return, those who received checks must reduce the credit amount they claim on their return by the amount of the check received. Also, taxpayers should have received IRS Notice 1319 containing information about the advance pay-

The limit on the amount of qualifying expenses for the child and dependent care has also increased. Qualified expenses may be allowed for up to \$3,000 for one eligible individual (\$6,000 for two or

The standard deduction is now \$9,500 for married filing jointly, twice the single standard deduction of \$4,750.

Members of the armed forces, National Guard and Reserves may be able to amend past years' returns to take advantage of these

• Exclusion of Sec. 132 payments from income -These are payments issued through the Defense Department's Homeowner Assistance Program to Armed Forces and some Defense Department employees due to qualified military base realignment or closure. This provision is effective on or after Nov. 11, 2003.

 Travel, meals and lodging for National Guard and Reservists - An above-theline deduction for non-reimbursed overnight travel, meals, and lodging expenses of National Guard and Reserve members who must travel more than 100 miles from home to fulfill their military obligations.

• Sale of a home – Generally, a homeowner must live in their primary residence two of the last five years to avoid paying taxes on the first \$250,000 of profits if they are single, or \$500,000 if they are married. This period is extended for up to 10 years for an individual or individual's spouse who is on qualified official extended duty as a member of the uniformed services or the Foreign Service of the United States. This is in effect for home sales after May 6, 1997, even though the tax year in question is otherwise closed for refund purposes. Affected military taxpayers have until

Nov. 11 to file for a refund. (From a Liberty Tax Service information release.)

Preston delivers "sergeant's time" message, stresses safety, ethos

Spc. Lorie Jewell Army News Service

WASHINGTON – In his first few weeks as the Army's top enlisted Soldier, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Ken Preston said he's getting a crash course on the "big picture" Army while zeroing in on key issues he'll focus on.

"Right now, I need to understand a little bit of everything across the board," Preston said during his first Sergeant's Time interview as sergeant major of the Army with Soldiers Radio and Television. "The Army staff is doing a wonderful job in getting me smart. Once they finish, I'll really start focusing on a couple things I can make a difference on over the course of the next three or four years."

Safety is one of those issues. With a mandate from the secretary of defense to reduce the accident rate by 50 percent, Preston plans to spearhead plenty of dialogue about the subject. So far this quarter, 79 Soldiers have died in accidents – 20 more than the first quarter of fiscal year 2003, Preston said. From fiscal years 2001 to 2003, the number of accidental deaths in the Army jumped from 168 to 255, according to the U.S. Army Safety Center at Fort Rucker, Ala.

"It's about not becoming complacent," Preston said. "It's ensuring Soldiers out there follow procedures established in policies, regulations, operating manuals.

Sergeants have a responsibility for enforcing the standards, for making sure Soldiers aren't taking short cuts or taking things for granted, he

Preston acknowledged that the current fast-paced operations tempo plays a role in the accident rate, but stressed he believes awareness can make a difference.

"We have 325,000 soldiers in more than 120 countries across world, and eight divisions in transition. The operations tempo is much higher, but nevertheless when a soldier dies because of accident, particularly when it could be prevented, it's a tragedy," Preston said. "I really think that the more we focus on it and the more we talk about it, even with the current pace of operations, we can reduce the rate."

The Army's most pressing priority at the moment is the global war on terrorism and upcoming troop movements into and out of theaters, Preston said. But leaders are also focused on concurrent goals, such as transitioning from a current to future force that remains relevant and ready, he added

"As the Army changes and evolves, so must other things," Preston said. "One of the things I want to look at is the future of the non-commissioned officer education system. It needs to evolve to take into consideration the modern battlefield we're currently on."

The Army's current design and organization was for the cold war-era fight, for a time when the good guys were at one end of the battlefield, the bad guys at the other, and they met in the middle for a "clash of the Titans" type battle, Preston explained.

"It is truly now a 360-de-

gree battlefield," he said. Training centers like NTC in California and JRTC in Louisiana are evolving to incorporate the lessons Soldiers are learning in Afghanistan and Iraq, Preston added. Emphasizing the Warrior's Ethos is another way of mentally preparing Sol-

diers for the new battlefield. "The Warrior's Ethos is what quantifies what Soldiers are about today," Preston said. "If you look at what's going on in Iraq, all Soldiers there are warriors. The mentality that every Soldier is a rifleman first

is so, so important." Balancing the force is another way of better preparing for the new battlefield. Preston said the Army's 100 artillery battalions were designed, again, for the cold war era. That number will be pared down, while other units in heavy demand – military police, for instance will be increased. The current 33 brigade combat teams will be refigured into 48 brigade units of action, he said.

Such changes will not only make the Army more modular and better able to quickly deploy, but will offer Soldiers more predictability in when

they'll deploy, Preston said.

before Congress in the near future, giving a state of the Army address from the enlisted Soldier's point of view.

"They want to know what Soldiers think when the rubber meets the road," he said.

One of the most frequent questions Preston fields has to do with morale. He said he answers based on what he knows, which comes from his interaction with Soldiers in Iraq. Preston believes morale is high across the Army. When he talks to Soldiers there, he shares his belief that a year from now, they will all be proud of their accomplishments in Iraq.

"The greatest gift you can give any human being is the gift of freedom," Preston said.

Sergeant's Time with Preston will air on SRTV Feb. 17. He will return for future talks on the show, with Soldiers encouraged to e-mail Preston questions. The address is: Preston will be testifying smaweb@hqda.army.mil.

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Valentine wishes

Photo by Laura West

Students at Freedom Park Elementary showed their appreciation for veterans by creating Valentines for them. Here, a group of pre-kindergarten students show off their finished product. The Valentines were sent to the Veterans Administration hospital on Wrightsboro Road.

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View Of the Confidence and Confidenc

Force Stabilization initiative to increase readiness, predictability

Joe Burlas Army News Service

While the primary goal of stabilizing Soldiers is to increase the readiness of their units for national security requirements, that stabilization also supports Well-Being for Soldiers and their family members, according to officials.

Force Stabilization is one of the 16 focus areas Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker identified last fall that the Army will work to remain ready and relevant in the near term and the future.

"We think by stabilizing the Army, where we don't move the Army every two to three years on an individual basis, but we keep people in place, develop cohesive, stable units, where spouses can work, where kids can go to school, where people can invest in homes and develop equity, stabilizes forces," Schoomaker told members of the House Armed Services Committee, Jan. 28. "It's better for the fighting forces. It's better for the families. And, it will increase our retention."

To stabilize Soldiers and their

families in the near term, the Army plans to implement two strategies -Home-basing and Unit Focused Stability, said Col. Paul Thornton who has been working the issue for the past 17 months as a member of the Unit Manning Task Force and chief of its successor, Task Force Stabilization.

Under Home-basing, all initial entry Soldiers — enlisted and officers — initially assigned to selected installations will remain on their initial duty-assignment installation following training for six to seven years. This allows Soldiers and their families time to grow community roots and have a known family support structure in place for those families if the Soldiers deploy, Thornton said. It also allows predictability in where they will be for a longer period than the current system permits, he said.

Currently, the average assignment tour length for enlisted initial entry Soldiers is about 31 months, said Brig. Gen. Sean Byrne, director of Military Personnel Policy, G-1.

Home-basing does not apply to midterm or career Soldiers, only initial entry Soldiers, Thornton said, but should lead to return assignments to the Home-base for all Soldiers eventually. Nor does the initiative stop Home-based Soldiers being levied for a short-term assignments at other locations.

Soldiers need to know that there may be a chance they'll have to do other things during their initial extended tour— short tours in Korea, Bosnia, Kosovo — but with Home-basing, they will return to their initial-assignment installations, Byrne said.

The six-to-seven-year career mark for ending home-basing was established because that is the point where the Army's manning needs outside of tactical units significantly increases, Thornton said.

"It's the point where that initial entry officer has made captain, completed a company command, and the Army may need that officer as a Pentagon staff officer, an instructor at the schoolhouse, or to complete advanced civilian schooling," Thornton said. "The enlisted Soldier will have likely made sergeant by that time and is ready for assignment as a recruiter, drill sergeant or an instructor."

Leader development training, such as basic and advanced noncommissioned officer course, and the captain's career course should not be impacted by Home-basing, as Soldiers will be sent to that training on temporary duty and then return to the installation.

Home-basing is set to start at selected Forces Command installations with divisional brigade combat teams sometime in the fourth quarter of the current fiscal year. It will eventually include most FORSCOM bases in the United States and may include some combined FORSCOM / Training and Doctrine Command posts, Byrne

Under the second initiative, Unit Focused Stability, all members of a unit initially arrive at the same time and are stabilized in that unit for three years.

"Optimally, if you want to build unit cohesion, you keep members of a team together through training, deployment and employment," Thornton said. "This is about building more capable warfighting units that require less train-up time when alerted for deployment."

The Army understands that losses occur to any unit due to medical, administrative, hardship or judicial issues, Thornton said, so there is a plan for an annual package of replacements who would remain with the unit through the remainder of the 36 month unit lifecycle. Individual replacements for key positions will be filled as required and requested by the unit, he said.

A key aspect to Unit Focused Stability is that the majority of these scheduled replacements joining the unit will be initial entry Soldiers.

"Let's say you need to replace a company commander due to a loss,' Thornton said. "His replacement will come from within — somebody who has been with the unit at the start of the unit lifecycle, somebody like the company executive officer or one of the battalion staff officers. Then you take a senior platoon leader and backfill the position left vacant. The initial entry replacement comes in and then fills the empty platoon leader position. It works the same way on the enlisted side.'

Recruiters have been armed with

See Stabilization, page 9

Commentary: Some Soldiers missed Super Bowl gala

Lt. Col. Andrew Straw Army News Service

At kickoff, I was touching up the shine on my combat boots. I thought of calling my wife in Charlotte, N.C., but she had already gone across town to a Super Bowl

As I left Washington for the drive to the airfield, the first half was winding down and the score was still 0-0. I couldn't find the game on the car radio and forgot about football for the next 30 minutes.

I arrived at Davison Army Airfield to find the eight young Soldiers from the Honor Guard, also dressed in camouflage fatigues, sprawled out

in the small passenger lounge. They were ogling the halftime show on TV and wisecracking back and forth just like thousands of other groups of young guys across the country at that moment. I learned that the score was 14-10, Panthers behind.

The general arrived five minutes later, just as the pilot stepped in to say the aircraft was ready. Anita called from Charlotte on my cell just as I was walking out the door— "Can't talk, gotta go." On the TV behind me, play was just beginning for the second half.

The ten of us followed a sergeant through the darkness from the neardeserted terminal to the waiting helicopter. As we carefully tiptoed

across patches of ice on the apron, one of the Honor Guard soldiers whispered something about Janet Jackson.

Another Soldier beamed with adventure as he climbed in, "It reminds me of the first time I rode a tractor!" I was beaming too. It would be my first ride on

an Army Black Hawk. I was warned in advance that Black Hawks had no heaters, and had bundled up with two layers beneath my uniform. The night was clear. We flew to Delaware at low altitude over beautiful snow-covered scenery. We

See Super Bowl, page 9

Commentary: Declare 'war on accidents'

Bob Van Elsberg Army News Service

Life may be unfair but death isn't - a fatal accident is an "equalopportunity" killer. It doesn't care whether you're behind the wheel of a Humvee or a Honda; it will take you wherever it can.

I know. I have seen death many times during my 33 years in and around the military. Back in 1974 I waved goodbye on a Friday afternoon to a couple of friends as they left to go canoeing in Washington state. Within 24 hours they were both dead —victims of alcohol and the "I-am-bulletproof" syndrome that led both of them to shun life

jackets. The year before, I saw a pretty young woman dying on the road next to her car. There was nothing I could do to help her. There's an old saying that goes, "Die young and leave a handsome corpse." But believe me, there is nothing attrac-

tive in watching someone die. Early in 2002 I interviewed the widow of an Air Force sergeant who'd gotten on the road drunk and hit a concrete barrier at 79 mph. Unbelted, he'd gone into the windshield and was declared brain dead the following day. He had a lot of bravado in his attitude about life. As I interviewed his widow, I sat there helplessly as she broke down in tears. They'd gotten married and bought a house barely two months before he died. When he ignored years of warnings against drinking and driving, he never thought about what it would do to the person who loved him most.

The problem with accidental

The problem with accidental death is that there's no 20-20 hindsight for those involved. There is only one destination—and death gives no paroles.

death is that there's no 20-20 hindsight for those involved. There's no going back and doing things differently because of lessons learned. There is only one destination—and death gives no paroles.

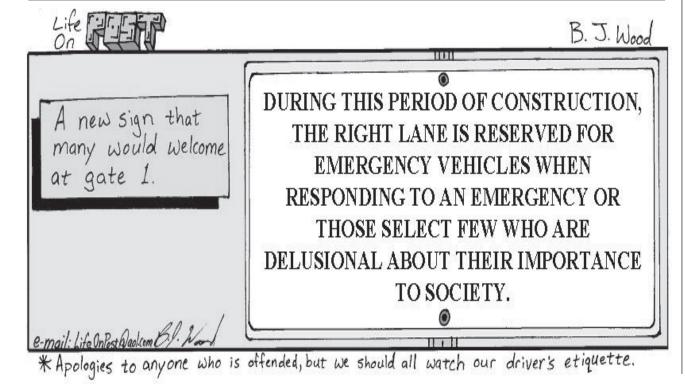
That's why declaring war on accidents is important, even as we fight this War on Terrorism. It hurts just as much to bury a loved one who died in an accident as one who died on the battlefield. Maybe, in reality, it hurts more. Death in combat is at least for a purpose. Death from an accident does little except to provide a sad example.

Boston, Baltimore, Baghdad—it doesn't matter where you are, you're on the front lines of this war. Your best piece of protective "armor" is risk management. Taking the time to identify risks, assess their severity, develop a plan to protect yourself, and then follow that plan can make you a victor in this war. Ignoring the risks and hoping in luck to get you through can quickly make you a victim. Victor or victim — it's your

choice. Editor's note: Bob Van Elsberg is managing editor of "Countermea-

sure" magazine. Contact him at

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Fun, family the driving force for Gordon's volunteer of the year

Staff Sgt. Stacy Wamble Signal military editor

Helping others, having fun and spending time with her children are what motivate Fort Gordon's Volunteer of the Year for 2003.

Rae Lynn Guthrie, wife of the installation assistant commandant, Col. Michael Guthrie, won the title not by how much she did, but by the impact she made when she volunteered, according to Lynn Harshman, installation volunteer coordinator.

"We look at the impact made as opposed to the number of hours worked, as well as experience and marketable skills," she said. "It's nice to have a body, but are they making an impact. She makes a difference. She's always productive.

"Guthrie has been very involved. Not a day goes by that she's not involved in some capacity," said Harshman. "That's how she was reared that as a good neighbor, citizen this is what you do."

A somewhat flustered Guthrie says, "I am very honored to receive the award, and a little embarrassed because I don't like the attention."

To get Guthrie to accept the award, Harshman had to get Guthrie's husband, who is currently deployed to Iraq, to talk her into accepting it.

"She's very quiet, nonassuming," said Harshman. "She didn't want the recognition."

Guthrie volunteers "everywhere that sounds like fun." Among those fun activities are being the room mom for her child's third-grade class, helping with her other child's first-grade class activities, helping with costumes for her older daughter's plays, being chairperson for this past year's Christmas House which included doing the shopping, working with the **Army Family Action Planning** and Army Family Team Building, helping with the installation's Officer Wives Club activities, helping out with her children's sports activities, working with her church's 12-18 year-old youth program last year, this year working with the children and women's program at her church, and playing the organ at her church.

Recycle

The

Signal



"I try to always get in the schools where my kids are and do stuff with their classes," she said.

As chairperson of Christmas House, Guthrie was responsible for ensuring a traditional winter holiday for more than 600 children. Guthrie did the majority of the shopping, filling 52 shopping carts according to Harshman, and ensuring each child received three toys.

Guthrie also spent nights and weekends arranging shelves, doing inventory and fine-tuning shelves for Christmas House, according to Harshman.

"It was a huge undertaking," Harshman said. But for Guthrie, this was all just "fun."

"I got to do all the shopping," said Guthrie excitedly. "Spending someone else's money is always fun." A stay-at-home mom,

Guthrie says she's very fortunate to spend time with her kids and to "have all this time to do all these fun things." Guthrie volunteers "because, it's fun, I want to help. I want to know what my kids are doing and what's happening here on post."

Guthrie says little has changed with her volunteer efforts since her husband left, but she does "miss his help getting kids back and forth to places."

Her hobbies are needlework, sewing, painting, quilting, scrapbooking and playing with her children when she has time.



File phot

Rae Lynn Guthrie, here chatting with Santa at Christmas House, was named the Fort Gordon Volunteer of the Year for 2003. Guthrie received the award Dec. 11.

Drill sergeant named best in battalion

Special to The Signal

Staff Sgt. Kimberly Thompson, a drill sergeant with Company B, 73rd Ordnance Battalion, recently won top honors at the 2004 Drill Sergeant of the Year board for the 59th Ordnance Brigade.

The board was held at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. While the 73rd reports to the 15th

Signal Brigade here, they also fall under the 59th Ordnance Brigade at Redstone.

Just getting

to compete in

the board was no small task. About 50 drill sergeants fall under the 59th, stationed at Redstone, Fort Gordon and Fort Sill,

Okla.

Thompson
was a prior
Drill Sergeant
of the Quarter
and Drill Ser-

geant of the Year for the

She took part in a formal board, physical fitness test, written tests, and demonstrated several drill and ceremony modules.

Thompson's best event was the APFT, where she bested all of the other drill sergeants.

For meeting the chal- June.

lenge, she was awarded the Drill Sergeant of the Year for

"The competition was fierce, but this was a great opportunity to meet and discuss what challenges the other drill sergeants face," Thompson said.

This is the second consecutive year that a B Co., 73rd drill sergeant has won this competition.



For her hard work and dedication, Thompson received an ARCOM from Col. Joyce Napier, 59th Ordnance Brigade commander. In addition she was awarded savings bonds, memberships in professional organizations and several coins.

Thompson will next compete for the title of TRADOC Drill Sergeant of the Year in





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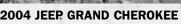
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Every Saturday Corporate Prayer - 8:00 a.m. Children's Church (Ages 3-12) **Blood Pressure Screenings Every 1st Sunday** Blood Sugar Screenings Every 2nd Sunday

Transportation is Available School of ministry is open to non-member ministers with a letter from your pastor FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD 1611 Fenwick Street

706-738-5532 www.augustafirst.org Dr. John F. Moore, Pastor Baxter Stanley, Assoc. Pastor SUNDAY

8 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. First Service 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 9:30-10:15 a.m. - Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 2:00 p.m. Korean Full Gospel Tabernacle 6:00 pm. Evening Worship

TUESDAY 10:00 a.m. Women's Ministries WEDNESDAY 6:30 p.m. Bible Study, Royal Rangers Missonettes, Youth, Choir FRIDAY

12:00 p.m. Prayer, Healing, Deliverance Service SATURDAY 9:00 p.m. Joy Fellowship (Women's - 2nd Saturday) **FIRST EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH**

2040 Ebenezer Drive Hephzibah, GA, 30815 (706) 592-9207 Rev. Moses D. Anderson, Pastor Sunday Services Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Mid-Week Service 11:00 a.m. Outreach Ministry Prison Ministry "A Bible Based Church

Led By The Holy Spirit" LIVE THEATRICAL PRODUCTION BETWEEN HEAVEN & HELL Sunday 6:00 p.m. **Call For Reservations GREATER APOSTOLIC HOLY TEMPLE CHURCH** 3443 Morgan Road

Hephzibah, GA 706-793-8448 Pastor: Elder Booker T. Hayes, Jr. Monday-Friday 5:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (Daycare Hours) Sunday Christian Education - 10 a.m Sunday Morning Worship - 11:15 a.m. Wednesday: Prayer & Bible Study 7 p.m. Friday: Evangelistic Night 7:30 p.m.

Van Transportation is Available HALE STREET **BAPTIST CHURCH** 352 Hale Street Augusta, GA 30901 722-1051

Pastor James C. Kendrick, Sr. Military Family Oriented Sunday School 09:30 Sunday Service 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Family Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Teen, Youth & Children's

> Transportation Available HARLEM UNITED **METHODIST CHURCH** "Jesus Christ: Come and See .

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Reverend Dr. Woodrow Miller, Jr. Pastor United States Army Retired Deacon Tyron McCoy, Chairman Deacon's Board United States Army Retired Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship Services 11:30 a.m.

Bible Study & Prayer Services 7:00 p.m. A "Bible Based, Christ Centered. Holy Spirited Led" Church

HILLCREST BAPTIST CHURCH

3045 Deans Bdg. Road,

Augusta, Ga. 30906 706-793-3104 Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Bandstand 6:00 p.m. (Activities for all ages) Evening Worship Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship Family Supper 5:30 p.m. Children's Activities

6:15 - 7:30 p.m. Adult & Youth Activities 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - 7:30 p.m. IGLESIA DE DIOS FLEMING MINISTERIO HISPANO "Cambiando Vidas con el Evangelio de Jesucristo" Servicio de Adoracion Domingos - 2:00 p.m.

Estudio Biblico para Todos

Miercoles - 7:00 p.m. Noche de Cine o Servicio Evangelistico Viernes - 7:30 p.m. 3358 Peach Orchard Road Augusta Telefonos (706) 560-6457

798-1413

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North Augusta, SC 29841 Tel: (706) 951-3053 ó (803)8271652 JENKINS MEMORIAL C.M.E. CHURCH "A Relevant Christian Voice" 4218 Windsor Spring Road

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Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening Worship Service 7:00 p.m. Come and fellowship with us 3969 Mike Padgett Hwy. P.O. Box 6207 Augusta, GA 30916-6207 706-790-1517

web:www.livingfaithchurch-augusta.com **LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE** RESURRECTION (ELCA) 825 Greene Street, Downtown Pastor-David B. Hunter, Sr.

"A Growing Church For A Growing People" Worship Services, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday Church School 9:30 a.m.

Nursery Open 8:30-Noon Call 724-8792 For Directions MARVIN UNITED **METHODIST CHURCH** 4400 Wheeler Rd.,

Martinez, Ga. (Just 5 Minutes outside Gate 1 on Dyess Pkwy.) D. Alan Smith. Pastor Sunday School 9:45-Morning Worship 8:45 & 11:00 Children's Church 11 a.m. Service Only Nursery Provided For All Services

Sunday Evening Contemporary Worship Service 6:15 p.m. Wed.-Fellowship Supper 5:45 p.m. Bible Studies 6:30 p.m. More Info. 706-863-0510 www.gbgm-umc.org/marvin MASON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

11321/2 Roselle Street, Augusta, Ga. 30901 706-774-0030 Elder Daniel F. Gant, Pastor Res. 706-651-8596 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Tuesday Bible Band/Y.P.W.W. 6 p.m. Thursday Pastoral Teaching

7:00 p.m. Saturday Prayer 11:00 a.m. **NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER**

"Find New Life In Christ" 706-738-2526 2805 Wylds Rd. • Augusta (Behind Augusta Mall) Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Sunday a.m. Pickup 9:15 Sunday Church 10-11:30 Sunday Evening Service 6:30 Wednesday Service 7-8:30 Sunday AM Pick up at 9:45 Bldg. 29606 Shoe Repair/ Shoe Shine Shop next to student PX on Barnes Ave. **OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN**

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 709 West Milledgeville Rd. Harlem, GA 556-1010 Sunday School 10 A.M. Sunday Worship 11 A.M. Sunday Evening Worship 6:30 PM Presbyterian Church in America Pastor: Dr. Gordon Crompton www.providencecolumbiacounty.org

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& Worship Center 2404 Tobacco Rd., Augusta 706-796-1400 rmicf.org **RHEMA HOUSE** OF PRAYER, INC. Willis O. Lewis, Pastor "Speaking Life into the Lives of

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Praver 8:30 a.m. Soul Winning 1:00 p.m. **SOUL'S HARBOR APOSTOLIC**

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738-3138 www.Souls-Harbor.com SHEKINAH TABERNACLE, INC. Non-denominational Service 4977 Windsor Spring Rd. Hephzibah/Carroll Rec-Center Sunday School 9:30-10:30 Regular Service - 10:30 Bible Study - Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Pastor Pamela M. Gardner

592-5941 ST. ALBAN'S **EPISCOPAL CHURCH** 2321 Lumpkin Road, Augusta, GA 706-798-1482 (Open at all times to all people) Services: Sundays 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

with Bible Study ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 3551 Wheeler Road East of Bobby Jones Expwy. Augusta, Ga. 30909 706-736-4575 Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

Sunday Evening - 7:00 p.m. Nursery Provided STRAIT GATE APOSTOLIC CHURCH 3201 Richmond Hill Rd.,

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220 Crawford Avenue, Augusta, Ga. 30904 706-736-8476 Coffee, Donuts, Fellowship 9:30 Sunday School (With Nursery) 9:45 Morning Worship (With Nursery) 11:00 Youth Choir Starts at 5:00 Snack Supper at 5:30 Bible Adventure and CYF at 6:00 Evening Worship 6:00 THE CHURCH OF THE **GOOD SHEPHERD** (Episcopal) 2230 Walton Way

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www.goodshepherd-augusta.net "Making Disciples Growing the Kingdom" Sunday Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m. & 9:00* a.m. 11:15* a.m. & 6:00 p.m. Church School at 10:15* *Nursery Provided THE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

"A Beacon For Christ" 2165 Kings Way Augusta, GA 30904 706-736-8446 Pastor - Dr. Michael L. Ruffin Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship Services 11:00 a.m. and 6 p.m. Be our guest for wednesday night dinner (with reservations) at 5:30 Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Activities for all ages Senior Activities

Nursery provided for all services **TRANSFORMATION** COMMUNITY CHURCH

A United Methodist Congregation "Changing the Community One Life at at Time" Rev. Jeffery O'Neal, Pastor Worship Service is currently held at Jamestown Elementary School 3637 Heirs Blvd. Hephzibah, GA 30815 10:30 a.m.

website: http://www.feelthechange.org VINEYARD COMMUNITY

CHURCH www.vccaugusta.org 4274 Frontage Road at I-20 (about 3 miles from Ft. Gordon) Real people experiencing the power and mercy of God. Sundays at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Home groups throughout the week. Check out our website for info, maps and

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH 261 Flowing Wells Road

current events

Martinez • 706-868-5982 e-mail: wbaptist@mindspring.com www.areachurches.com Sunday Services: 8:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m. Sunday School

for all ages 10 a.m. Teen & Ladies Bible Study 10 a.m. Wednesday: AWANA/Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Saturday: Visitation 10:30 a.m. WILDWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH 2627-Tobacco Rd. • 793-1413 1 Mile Outside Gate 5 on Tobacco Rd.

This is a Christ-centered Church Abounding In Love A Country Church In Town Child Care All Services Sunday Worship at 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

& Child Church Wed. 7:00 p.m. Bible Study Great Youth Program For All Ages Thursday 7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Victorious Christ Centered WINDSOR SPRING **BAPTIST CHURCH**

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Photos by Staff Sgt. Stacy Wamble

Make a joyful noise

(Above) Staff Sgt. Kurt Zemaitaitis and the 434th Army Band's brass quintet provided music for the Fort Gordon National Prayer Breakfast Wednesday at the Gordon Club. This year's theme is "Coming to Attention Spiritually." (Right) Chaplain (Col.) Janet Horton was the guest speaker for the Fort Gordon National Prayer Breakfast. She took her text from the national theme.

She entertained the audience with personal tales of coming to attention spiritually and challenged them to come to 'attention spiritually' for God. The event opened with the National Anthem sung by Youth **Challenge Academy Cadet Freddie Thomas and** included prayers and a special musical presentation from Chap. (Capt.) Deirdre Freeman.

The problem with youth? Parents

Chaplain (Capt.) Douglas Lax 369th Signal Battalion

I was ending a worship service in a small country church. At the conclusion of the last hymn, I pronounced the benediction and moved to stand at the door to greet the congregation as they exited. One young man about 6 years old greeted me with this statement, "That's the longest sermon I've ever heard!"

The young lad's mother following behind, seemingly embarrassed, stood straight and, regretfully, gave this explanation to me. She said, "... pay him no attention,...he only repeats what he hears.

If you truly want to know what the problem with America's youth is... look to the parents. Our children model the standard that parents set for them. In the Bible, the book of Proverbs has this declaration (Proverbs 22:6), "Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it."

Today I commend to you four of Fort Gordon's finest young

They are Anthony Delusio, Aaron Lax, Andrew Delusio and Aaron Lentner. The following account is true.

These young men, between the ages of 15 and 17, came upon

sessed the situation, called the fire department, and warned two mountain bikers. They then escorted and assisted the fire department and Forestry Service in locating and containing the fire to just about six acres of damage.

The fire came within about 50 yards of burning some housing units in McNair Terrace. If that wasn't enough, these young men were questioned later as part of the investigation by the MPs and CID, in an effort to find the cause of the blaze.

What courage their actions took! Anthony, Aaron, Andrew and Aaron later impressed me again during the week of the ice storm. These four young men assisted six families of deployed Soldiers in the McNair Terrace

They cleaned off roofs, hauled limbs and tree debris, and raked yards for these wives and mothers who had no way of getting

assistance with the ice damage. Take a closer look at the families of these four young men. It

gives great insight as to why they got involved on their own. So the next time you think all youth are bad, I remind you to look to the parents. I am writing as a parent. Get involved with your sons and daughters.

Your children will make "rookie" mistakes, but they will also make you proud!

Super Bowl

From page 5

landed at Dover Air Force Base 45 minutes later, and parked near a huge C-141 cargo plane with Air Force Reserve markings. The rear doors and ramp were open, and light spilled from the huge cargo bay.

I followed the general as he was quickly ushered into a small, neat passenger lounge. Coffee? Water?

The game was on TV; the score was 22-21. A half dozen others in various uniforms were waiting. I introduced myself to a major from New York City — a forensic

Army Reserve, called up to help out for a 30-day tour. A Methodist minister serving as an Air Force chaplain

dentist in the

bragged about the support his wife gives him while he is recalled to active duty.

While the general got a briefing on the mission details, an Air Force colonel gathered the rest of us together, and we marched out to the C-141. I followed him up the ladder into the cargo

It was empty except for the three oblong boxes in a perfect row down the center.Two loadmasters were adjusting the ramp in the rear of the aircraft, and several others were carefully arranging U.S. flags over each of the boxes. A congenial major explained the proceedings to follow the way a priest leads a family through a wedding rehearsal.

I line up with the flight crew along the fuselage, facing the caskets.

"Attention!" The Honor Guard marches in silently; wearing white gloves with their camouflage uniforms now. The general marches up the ramp with the *explosive device during* Air Force wing commander, a convoy operations. Straw is colonel. The chaplain says a prayer with all the right

words: fallen warriors...the Army family...selfless service...the price of free-

Nobody is thinking about football. Nobody. The young Soldiers from the Old Guard are standing smartly, solemnly, expressionless. No slouching or snickers now, only the serious task at hand.

"Ready...Down!" "Ready...Up!" "Ready...Face!" "Forward...March!" They move to the measured commands with

astounding

In the cold

Welcome home, fallen sergeant, corporal, and private first class. You missed the Super Bowl. The

Patriots won.

precision. dark night, there are fewer than two dozen of us present. No outsiders are watching. but those young

> men give a TVquality performance, as if their burden was a fallen

president. "Present Arms!"

We salute as the first remains are marched off the plane under the watchful gaze of the general. He salutes.

We do it again for the second set and the third. The unmarked, clean, white truck then drives off very slowly with its red, white, and bluedraped cargo. The Honor Detail marches behind it. The General dismisses us.

Back in the small lounge. the game is still on, eight seconds left. I watch the unfolding excitement numbly.

Welcome home, fallen sergeant, corporal, and private first class. You missed the Super

Bowl. The Patriots won. Thank you. (Sgt. Eliu Miersandoval, 27, Cpl. Juan Cabralbanuelos, 25, and Pfc. Holly McGeogh, 19, of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, died Jan. 31 in Kirkuk, Iraq, when their vehicle hit an improvised

an Army Reserve officer

from Charlotte, N.C.)

Chapel Call

Collective Protestant Services

Sunday 9:00 a.m. • Liturgical Service, Bicentennial Chapel

9:00 a.m. • Gen "x" Soldiers Service, Friendship Chapel 10 a.m. • Eisenhower Army Medical Center Chapel

11 a.m. • Gospel Service at Signal Theatre

11 a.m. • Bicentennial Chapel 11 a.m. • Friendship Chapel

Catholic Services

11:45 a.m. Monday thru Friday, Eisenhower Army Med Ctr. Chapel 12:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday, Good Shepherd Chapel 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Confessions, Good Shepherd Chapel 5 p.m. Saturday, Vigil Mass, Good Shepherd Chapel

Sunday Masses 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., Good Shepherd Chapel 11:45 a.m. Eisenhower Army Medical Center Chapel Jewish Activities

Holy Day Services, Announced Jewish Activities Center, Bldg. 38804

Daily and Sabbath service available off-post for Jewish personnel For information call 791-3959

Islamic Services

Jumah Prayer Service on Fridays Oct-Apr at 1245-1:30, and Apr-Oct from 1:30-2:30.

These are held in Bldg. 38804, Academic Drive.

For more information, call CPO (Ret.) Marshall Abuwi 772-4303 **Denominational Services**

LDS Service - Sunday 2 p.m., Barnes Avenue Chapel Samoan Service, Sunday 1 p.m., Bicentennial Chapel, Bldg. 28414

Religious Education Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School, Religious Education Center Sunday, 11:00 a.m., Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) Classes, Religious Education Center (Sept. thru May).

Other Programs/Services Episcopalian Soldier Representative is Kurt Miller at 791-0213 LDS representative is Sergeant 1st Class (retired) Scott Robison. 533-0376. Apostolic Pentecostal's representatives are Chaplain

Brewster, 791-4683, or Chaplain Snyder, 791-2539 OCF Bible Study - Monday 6:30 a.m., Officer Christian Fellowship Bible Study, Friendship Chapel, 791-2056. Friday evening OCF POC is Col.

Hook, 863-8231, or Capt. Craft, 364-5144. Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Protestant Women of the Chapel, Bldg. 28414 Bicentennial Chape Wednesday, 11:30 a.m., Devotional Luncheon, Bicentennial Chapel, Bldg. 28414

Wednesday, 9:30 a.m., Protestant Women of the Chapel, Bldg. 28414 Wednesday 11:45 a.m. EAMC Bible Study, DDEAMC Din. Fac. Conf. Rm., 3rd floor Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Bldg. 39713, Faith Community Bible Study Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Friendship Chapel Bible Study Thursday, 11:30 a.m. 63rd & 67th SIG BN Bible Study, Contact Chaplain

Chapel Directory Bicentennial Chapel, 791-3959 Good Shepherd Chapel (Catholic), 791-2945 Faith Community Chapel Activities 791-4703 (during duty hours)

Barnes Avenue Friendship Chapel, 791-2056 EisenhowerArmy Medical Center Chapel, 787-6667 **Religious Education** Protestant/Catholic Program, Mr. Randall Dillard 791-4703

For additional information, call 791-4683 the Installation Chaplain's Office, Building 29601

a wild fire in Training Area 1 behind McNair Terrace. They as-

Stabilization

From page 5

a variable enlistment incentive to encourage those entering the Army to sign on for duty with a Unit Focused Stabilization unit. Recruits who sign up for the bonus must serve on active duty the amount of time it takes them to complete basic and advanced individual training plus three years in the unit rather than the standard three, four or six year enlistment

Opportunity for leader development training, such as basic and advanced noncommissioned officer course, and the captain's career course will continue under Unit Focused Stability, only the timing of attendance may be affected.

The 172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate), based at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, is the first Army unit to use Unit Focused Stability when it started the process to become the Army's third Stryker Brigade Combat Team this past summer.

Unit Focused Stability will take longer to implement across the Army than Home-

basing because of operational requirements and the need for coordination with multiple Army organizations for each unit transitioning to the new manning system, Thornton said. Eventually, the Army plans to transition one brigade combat team a month, he said.

Both Force Stabilization initiatives should not impact anybody's chances for promotion, Byrne said, as promotions are based upon Army requirements, not unit requirements.

"We are increasing the readiness of the Army through stability and unit cohesion, while providing more predictability to Soldiers and their families," Byrne said. "We have always said that we enlist Soldiers and reenlist families."

(This is the fourth in a series of articles on Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker's focus areas. This one also coincides with a major announcement on initiatives to stabilize the force.)

TSP changes announced

The Thrift Savings Plan for federal civil service employees and military participants has some important changes to the TSP Loan

Participants who need a TSP loan will be charged a \$50 fee to cover the cost of processing and servicing the loan. This fee will

ensure that these costs are paid by the 500,000 participants who use the program and not by the 2.7 million participants who do not use the program.

For details go to http:// www.gordon.army.mil/dhr/Benefits/ high04a1.pdf for the .pdf file.

Drill sergeant spotlight

Name:/Staff Sgt. Clifford McDonald Jr. Unit: Company B, 551st Signal Battalion

Hometown: Hampton, Va. **Time at Fort Gordon:** 26 months

What do you enjoy about being a DS? Training and mentoring the warriors of the worlds most strongest Army.

What do you want to accomplish in the Army? I admire my father, and would love to follow in his footsteps and obtain the rank of command sergeant major. Not for the rank, but a chance to make a difference.



Staff Sgt. McDonald



Sponsorship does not imply an endorsement by the U.S. Army.

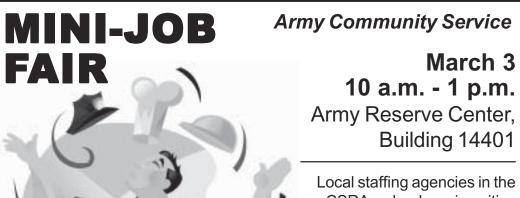


SHOWTIMES...

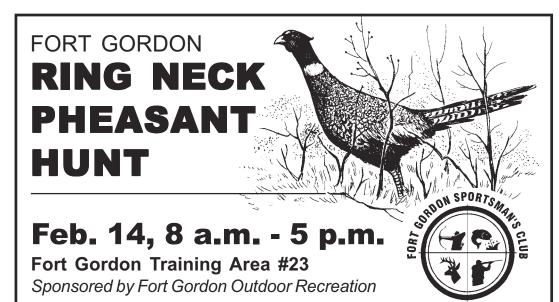
For more information, call 791-6779 or visit www.fortgordon.com.

BIG TOP entrance, Fort Gordon Federal Credit Union and Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre for \$10 for adults (ages 13 & over), \$5 for children (ages 3-12), and FREE for children under 3.





CSRA, schools, universities and home business consultants will be present. Open to the public! For more information, call 791-0795.



BY RESERVATION ONLY!

Sportsman's Club Members: Pheasants are \$11 ea.; Quail are \$4 ea. Non-Club Members: Pheasants are \$22 ea.; Quail are \$8 ea.

Open to all Fort Gordon licensed hunters and guests.

Public may attend as guests.

Reservations must be made in advance by calling Fred Perry at 791-5078 or

833-2834. www.fortgordon.com.

Firearms can be legally brought onto the installation for the purpose of hunting or firing at the approved firing range, and only for the period of time the person possessing the firearms is hunting or firing on the range."

The Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre Presents... A Classic British Farce and Comic Masterpiece by Michael Frayn February 13, 14, 20, 21, 26, 27 & 28 Dinner, 7 p.m. / Show, 8 p.m. TICKETS: \$32-Civilians \$30-Seniors (65 & over), Retirees, DA Civilians & Active Duty E8 & Above \$20-Active Duty E7 & Below

Call 793-8552 for reservations or visit www.fortgordon.com
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

\$15-Show Only

The POV Sales Lot Has Moved

The POV Sales lot is now located at 31st Street and 3rd Avenue (between Class Six and Mini-Storage). All vehicles must be registered at the Auto Service and Craft Center (Building 29300) prior to parking. All unregistered vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense. Vehicle registration, insurance and post decal are required. For additional information, call 791-2390/7256.





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TUNING IN

Soldier making impact on rap music scene

Sgt. Ryan Matson
Signal staff

Reginale Thomas, Company C, 442nd Signal Battalion, has been fast-tracking his entire seven-year military career.

He worked his way onto the E-7 list during this time. And now, Thomas plans to make a big splash in his music career as well.

A couple weeks ago, Thomas had the number one rap song on an Internet web-site which plays music requested by its participants. The song, titled *Down Here*, was like many of Thomas' songs – a work driven by experience, more specifically, tales from growing up in Palatka, Fla.

But listeners won't find *Down Here* by looking for Thomas' name, but must use his performing name instead:
Blagheart.

By day Thomas works as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Signal Pre-Command Course, which instructs officers who are assuming command at the battalion or brigade level. By night he is an aspiring musician working hard to hit the big time.

Thomas, 26, has been rapping as a hobby since the age of 14, and pursuing the dream of being a professional musician for the last eight years.

The first big step in pursuing his dream came when Thomas secured a record deal about a year and a half ago. He recalled how he got to that point.

"I was stationed in Japan, and myself and a buddy of mine entered a talent show, and we won it," he said. "The prize for winning

was we got to be the opening act for an Outkast concert, so we got to meet them and talked to them. They encouraged us to pursue it as a career. That's when I really started pushing towards a rap career."

But getting the record deal wasn't easy.

"You have to enter a lot of talent shows, or go to these clubs and perform," he said. "You can go find producers and record a demo, then you have to mail your demo out to all these different labels and hope that someone calls you back." After sending out hundreds of demos, Thomas got that long-awaited call, from Mobb Musik, a small, recently-formed label in San Antonio, Texas.

"They actually give you an interview, like a job interview," Thomas recalled. "Then they bring in a group of people, in my case five, and you perform your song to see if you're marketable. Of course they listen to see if you have talent, but if you didn't have talent, they wouldn't have called you anyway. After that, then you go into the negotiations phase of your record deal. It's a long process - there's nothing easy about it. If you don't have a love for music and just want to do it as a get-rich-quick scheme, the music industry is not it."

In November 2003, Thomas signed his deal with Mobb Musik.

To write a song, Thomas said he draws from many different influences. He said about half his songs were written without music.

He said he sees things everywhere, in movies, in day-to-day life experiences, which inspire him to write.

"Whatever comes to my mind, I just write, and it usually doesn't make sense," he said. "You have to be creative and write from your own experiences."

If Thomas doesn't get the words

first, he said sometimes he will hear a beat he likes and

formulate a song around it.

Thomas said he records lyrics in Aiken and sends the file by mail or the Internet to Mobb Musik. From there,

Internet to Mobb
Musik. From there,
Thomas' producer
adds the music and
the completed work
is sent to the CD
manufacturer.
Mobb Musik's
owner/founder,

owner/founder,
Eugene Thomas,
hopes the label will
grow in popularity
with the career of
their marquis act,
He said he firmly

Reginale Thomas. He said he firmly believes Thomas has the makings of a star.

"We wanted to find a good franchise artist, and we got Reginale's demo in the mail," Thomas said. "We knew we wanted him as soon as we heard it. It was his charisma, He's a nice talent, he doesn't sound like anybody else."

"To me, and our company as a label, it wasn't important whether or not he's in the Army, we were going to sign him anyway," Thomas said.

With the record contract in place, Thomas' next goal in hitting the big time is to get on the Department of Defense

"I would like to go overseas and perform in front of all the Soldiers," he said. "They have all sorts of musicians who perform over there - anything that a Soldier would possibly listen to, they get it. As far as me being a Soldier, it would be great to perform for my fellow Soldiers."

While he is making progress in his rap career, Thomas faces a big decision. He is now 19 months from his re-enlistment date and must decide whether to stay in the military and try to continue to pursue his career, or leave the Army and devote himself to music full time.

Until he makes this decision, Thomas is satisfied to work hard at both careers. "I want people to see that there are Soldiers out there who've got talent," he said. "They're doing more than left-right-left. And I know of at least two rappers that used to be in the Army – Mystikal, and Petey Pablo."

Thomas said he has drawn from the influence of several rappers when forming this style - from the business aspect, Russell Simmons, Master P, Puff Daddy, artistically Scarface, Tu-Pac, "old school" rappers such as KRS-1. When it comes to beats he prefers to rap to, Thomas said he enjoys beats with jazz undertones, because the beats tend to relax people. He said the mellow feel of the music tends to open up a listener's mind and relax them, causing them to listen to what he's saying.

Conveying a message is something Thomas said he enjoys about rapping. "When I rap, I rap for a purpose," he

"When I rap, I rap for a purpose," he explained. "I'm trying to entertain and educate at the same time. If I can get someone to dance when I'm rapping, that's good, but my overall goal is that I want you to think about what I'm saying and apply it to your daily life."

Thomas said he plans to try and keep his songs original by constantly working on a variety of topics.

"I don't just focus on one little section," he said. "A lot of rap is violent, then you've got rap that's tailored toward talking about women, you've got some that's tailored toward talking about cars, and some rap that's tailored toward social issues. I try to combine everything, because you've got some fans who are into all of these things, so I try to touch everybody."

He's even working on a rap tune off the theme from The Beverly Hillbillies. Blaqheart's new CD, *Cardiac Arrest*, is due to be released from Mobb Musik in April.

While he continues to chase his dream, Thomas said regardless of whether he hits the big time or not, he is happy to be doing what he loves - making music.

"If everything fails, I would be satisfied, because when I was younger and people would ask me, 'What are your dreams?,' that was one of them, to be a musician," Thomas said.

"I pursued it, and even if everything were to fail, I would still be happy, because I really tried to accomplish one of my dreams. I'd still do it for fun, because it's relaxing. To put all your stresses in a song is therapeutic."

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Worker eclipses 50 years of service

Denise Allen
Signal staff

Putting in more than 50 years of service to his country wasn't difficult for Bob Petty.

"It's like a hobby," said Petty of his 52 years of military and civil service.

Petty retired Jan. 2, and family, friends and colleagues honored him Jan. 29 at a retirement party at the Gordon Club.

"I've just enjoyed working here all these years," said Petty, who was chief

of the force management and analysis division of the Directorate of Resource Management when he retired.

His career of service to his country began in 1951 when he joined the Navy. He spent about four years in the Navy and joined the Air Force in 1955, retiring after more than 20 years of service.

In 1976, he began working

at Fort Gordon.

"He's a wonderful boss," said Jean Hutchinson, who worked with Petty for at least 15 years. "He's very thoughtful, very dedicated to his

work."

That dedication to work
led many people including his
own family to believe that
they'd never see him retire,

said his son, Tod Petty.

"We kidded him for years that we were all going to be gone before he did. It's an odd feeling; he's gone, and we're still there," said Betty Norris, who worked for Petty

for more than 10 years.

Open heart surgery in
September was a contributing factory to Petty's decision to

"If I'd been healthy, I would have kept working I

guess," he said.

Now that he's made the decision, Petty said he's looking forward to spending time with his family. He and his wife, Rita, have three adult sons and several grandchildren. He also plans to travel.



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(From left) Charles July and Calvert Shelton congratulate Bob Petty, who is retiring after 52 years of combined service to the military and civil service. A retirement party was held Jan. 29 at the Gordon Club for Petty.

Last 101st convoy leaves Iraq, I Corps sets flag

Pfc. Thomas Day and Sgt. Jeremy Heckler Army News Service

NAVISTAR, Kuwait – The last 101st Airborne Division convoy rolled across the Iraqi border just before 5 a.m. Kuwaiti time this morning, leaving behind a mission that spanned almost a year.

Spc. Misael Santiago of Lawton, Okla., pulling rear convoy security with a .50caliber machine gun, had the historical honor of being the final 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) "Screaming Eagle" to leave Iraq by vehicle. He was is nothing that can't be part of a seven-vehicle convoy, with elements of Company D, 3-502nd Infantry Regiment, and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Division Support Command.

"I just feel good to be almost home," Santiago said, echoing sentiments of every other troop who undertook the three-day movement from Mosul in northern Iraq to Kuwait.

A small contingent of ten 101st soldiers, assigned to Mosul Airfield, are all that remain of the 101st in Iraq. They are projected to fly directly out of the country later this month.

Last week, with hundreds of regional Iraqi leaders and coalition partners looking on, the 101st Airborne Division transferred authority and operational control of Ninewa, Irbil and Dahuk provinces to "Task Force Olympia." The ceremony Feb. 5 took place at the palace headquarters complex in northern Mosul.

The ceremony marked the culmination of several weeks of transition operations and regional handovers in Tall Afar, Qayyara and Mosul, as many units under the operational control of Task Force Olympia, including 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team), worked in conjunction with 101st Air-

On a bright February day in Mosul, the major subordinate commands of the task force from both the United States and Iraq flanked the road to the headquarters. The colors of the 101st Airborne Division stood at attention in the center of the color guard.

During the ceremony, the Screaming Eagle colors slowly dipped and Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, 101st commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Hill furled and cased the colors for their trip home to Fort Campbell, Ky.

"We have shown that there achieved when we all work together," said Petraeus. He added, "A tribute to the Iraqi security forces is that the Iraqi flag is included in the color guard, and the Iraqi national anthem was played today along with the national anthem of the

As the Screaming Eagle colors departed, a covered and furled guidon appeared and took its place in the color

guard. Brigadier Gen. Carter F. Ham, commander of Task Force Olympia, and Sgt. Maj. Patrick Pacheco uncased and unfurled the Task Force Olympia colors – the colors of I Corps - before the color-bearer raised them to the heavens.

The Task Force Olympia commander said he intends to continue the progress made by the Screaming Eagles.

"We owe you, our nation and the people of Iraq our best effort every day and that is what you shall get," said Brigadier Gen. Carter F. Ham, commander, Task Force Olympia.

Task Force Olympia is a sub-

element of 1st Corps headquarters based at Fort Lewis, Wash. The unit includes representatives from all three components of the U.S. Army (Active, Reserve and National Guard) as well as United States Marine Corps and Australian officers. Task Force Olympia's subordinate units include the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division

battalions, three Iraq Border Police battalions and several thousand members of the Iraq Facility Protection Security Forces and will soon include an Iraq Armed Forces battalion.

The ceremony marked the first time that 1st Corps command elements have forward deployed in combat since the end of the Korean War.

Shortly after the ceremony, many Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division boarded UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters for a short ride to Mosul Airfield, where military transport awaited for their trip back to Kuwait and eventually to Fort Campbell.

As they were leaving, the famous insignia of the 101st Airborne Division was lowered from the headquarters building and the 1st Corps unit insignia took it's place, signifying a new change in command in Mosul.

(Day is a member of the 40th PAD, attached to the 101st Airborne Division, and Heckler is (SBCT), from Fort Lewis, a member of Task Force Olymfour Iraqi Civil Defense Corps pia Public Affairs.)

Photo by Spc. Jesse Artis

borne Division Soldiers to en- Brig. Gen. Carter F. Ham, commander, Task Force Olympia, and Sgt. Maj. Patrick sure a seamless transition of Pacheco, unfurl the colors of 1st Corps during a ceremony held at the palace headquarters in Mosul Feb. 5.

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Credit

From page 3A

If there truly is incorrect credit information on a person's credit report, consumers can dispute it with the credit reporting agency.

But Valentine warns, even though some information is removed from a person's credit history after so many years, it never truly goes

"It's always a part of public record," he said.

Many times the information shows up anyway, regardless of what was done to get the information removed, such as if an individual is applying for a job or attempting to buy a

Valentine said the best way to clean up a credit report is to help yourself.

"The first thing is to, at least once a year, get a copy of your credit report," he said. "Make sure it's accurate.'

Valentine said people with good entries on their report should do their best to keep those entries in good standing by keeping an eye on them and making timely payments on those accounts.

"Once you fall behind, it becomes a record, but it's a redeemable record," added Linney.

He said consumers can request a free copy of their report from various consumer credit report companies by going on-line or looking them up in the phone book.

"Keeping those good accounts up and waiting till those old ones disappear is the only way to actually fix your credit report," said Valentine.

"One thing that does happen a lot is that things that should have been purged because of the seven year period, are not purged," he said. "So a consumer looking at a report can say, 'This is correct, but it's outdated. Please remove it."

There are legitimate credit management companies out there that can assist consumers in better handling their credit, he debts. said, and ACS is more than willing to assist any servicemember if this is an option they might want to

pursue. "Consumer credit counseling is legitimate and they do a good job," added Linney. "They are nonprofit organizations."

Linney said consumer credit counseling is a good alternative to credit repair.

'The advantage of these outfits is you can use them and avoid bankruptcy which is real important to Soldiers because of the security clearance," said Linney, citwith Soldiers paying their

He said these companies consolidate all debts for a creditors for a reduced payment the client can afford.

Linney said going this route will not eliminate de- to www.ftc.gov, or call the rogatory entries on a JAG legal assistance office at person's credit report, but 791-3148 or Army Commuwill keep debt collectors nity Services at 791-3579.

from harassing clients.

Valentine added a consumer can soften the impact of a negative entry by including a victim's statement in their credit report. A victim's statement is a

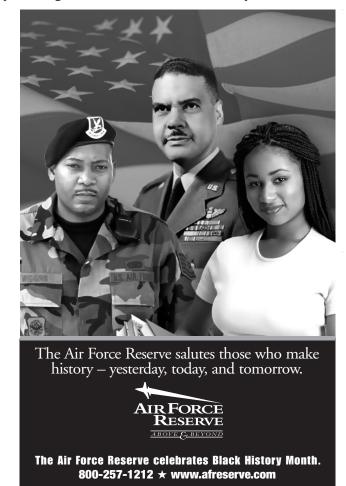
short statement written in the consumer's own words ing AR 600-85 which deals that some credit reporting agencies accept, stating what circumstances (divorce, accident causing injury preventing work) conclient and negotiate with the tributed to the negative entries on the credit report, said Valentine.

For more information, go

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Community Events

Job fair

Army Community Service is having a Mini Job, Career and Home Business Fair from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. March 3 at the U.S Army Reserve Center, Building 14401. The fair is open to the public. For information, call 791-0795.

Buffalo soldiers

Horseback demonstrations and the history of the Buffalo Soldiers will be presented as part of Augusta State University's ongoing celebration of Black History Month from noon-3 p.m. Monday in Galloway Hall and the adjacent parking lot, 2500 Walton Way.

Buffalo Soldiers, African-American cavalry and infantry regiments, not only provided protection for crews building railroads, but they also explored and mapped vast areas of the southwest and strung hundreds of miles of telegraph lines.

The demonstration is free and open to the public. For more information, call Michael Searles at 737-1709.

Masters tickets

The Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation has a limited number of one-day Masters tickets available for sale for the tournament April 8-11. Only active duty military personnel assigned to Fort Gordon are eligible.

A drawing will be held March 22; winners may purchase the tickets for \$44 per ticket. Applications for the drawing are available March 1-19 in Darling Hall, Room 260.

For information, call Pat Camacho at 791-8204/8664.

Tech show

The annual Georgia Information Technology Show will be held at the Gordon Club from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 24. This event is free to all personnel.

Major technology companies will demonstrate the latest, fastest and "best of show" computers, related hardware and accessories.

For more information call (888)282-2262, e-mail info@atc-expo.com or go to www.atc-expo.com/

College registration

Paine College is having registration for Spring II 2004 Feb. 17-19 and March 9-11. Late registration and add/ drop is March 12-15. For information, call 793-2030 or 791-7979.

The circus is coming

The Royal Hanneford Circus will be at Fort Gordon's Barton Field Feb. 26-29.

Showtimes are Feb. 26-27, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 28, 10:30 a.m., 2 and 7 p.m.; and Feb. 29, 2 and 4:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for ages 13 and over, \$5 for ages 3-12, and free for children under 3. Tickets can be purchased at the Big Top entrance, Fort Gordon Credit Union and Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre.

Dora the Explorer

Dora the Explorer Live performs at the Bell Auditorium March 16-17.

Tickets range from \$14-\$37. To order, call 828-7700 or go to www.ticketmaster.com.

Allergy clinic

The Eisenhower Army Medical Center Department of Medicine will host the William E. Pierson Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology educational program Feb. 19-20.

EAMC was recognized as one of 16 residency programs throughout the United States to be honored.

This free two-day symposium will focus on basic allergy topics and is open to Internal Medicine and Family Practice residents, as well as primary care physicians.

For more information contact Dr. Kirk Waibel at 787-4154.

Holiday hours

The Post Exchange is open 10 a.m.-7 p.m. **Monday** for the President's Day holiday. Other hours include: PXtra 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Gate 1 Shoppette 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; barber and beauty shop, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Class Six, closed.

NAACP dinner

The NAACP hosts its 29th Annual Armed Services and Veteran's Affairs Dinner June

The dinner will recognize military members and Department of Defense employees nominated by the military for contributions in the areas of equal opportunity and civil rights.

Nominations are due to the Fort Gordon Equal Opportunity Office. Building 25706. Barnes Avenue by Feb. 26. Nominations for civilian personnel working in the Equal Employment Opportunity Program should be forwarded to the installation EEO Office in Darling Hall.

For information contact Mary Jones at 791-2014.

Car seat inspections

The Medical College of Georgia Children's Medical Center and Safe Kids of East Central Georgia are offering free child safety seat inspections from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at Pontiac Master Buick GMC, 3710 Washington Rd.

ioa goalon

The newest edition of Army Newswatch is

currently airing and includes the following

SMA Tilley's final words

weeks on Charter Cable Channel 13 on:

premieres Feb. 23.

Fridays at 8:30 a.m.

Support Center.

101st Soldiers return to Fort Campbell

SMA Preston swearing in ceremony

The Fort Gordon Report and Army Newswatch alternate

Mondays and Thursdays at 7:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5:30

p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays at 7

a.m., 12 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Wednes-

10:30 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays at 8 a.m. and

days at 6:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 8 p.m. and

The next edition of the Fort Gordon Report

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The Fort Gordon Report is the Signal Center's official

television news program and is produced on post by

the Fort Gordon Public Affairs Office and the Training

The inspections are part of Child Passenger Safety Week (Feb. 9-15).

AER campaign

The annual Army Emergency Relief campaign is scheduled from March 1 to May 27. The kickoff training for unit project officers is 1:30-3 p.m. Feb. 18 in Olmstead Hall.

At a minimum each brigade and battalion should appointment at least one project officer to attend this meeting. Project officers will be responsible for publicizing the AER campaign throughout their unit and ensuring each Soldier has an opportunity to contribute.

The name, rank, telephone number, e-mail address and unit of the individual(s) appointed at brigade and battalion level who will attend the kickoff training should be submitted by Tuesday to brinklev@gordon.army.mil or phone 791-3371.

Education fair

The Fort Gordon Education Center will host an Information Fair at 6:30 p.m. March **11** designed for those interested in becoming teachers in Georgia. The seminar will be in Darling Hall, Room 188. For information, call 791-2000.

Separating servicemembers

Servicemembers within one year of separating or two years of projected retirement from the military may contact the Army Career and Alumni

Program for assistance. All servicemembers leaving active duty with more than 180 days of active service, must receive the congressionally mandated preseparation counseling. This counseling must take place no later than 90 days prior to separation and covers available transition assistance services, rights and benefits. To schedule an appointment, call 791-7333, or go to

www.gordon.army.mil/dhr/

Mardi Gras trip

The Junior Sailor Association (Navy) is hosting a trip to Mardi Gras Feb. 20-22. The fee is \$250, which includes roundtrip transportation by chartered bus and a two night stay at a local Marriott hotel. A \$150 non-refundable deposit is due today. For information call Petty Officer Misty Rambo at 854-1482.

Women's history month

March is Women's History Month. The 2004 theme is Women Inspiring Hope and Possibilities. The Women's History Month command program is 1:30 p.m. March 23 at Alexander Hall.

The guest speaker is Brig. Gen. Julia J. Cleckley, special assistant to the director, Army National Guard and the special assistant for military women for Federally Employed Women. She is the first minority woman, line officer, to rise to the rank of brigadier general in the Army National Guard.

For information, call Master Sgt. Tonja Deans at 791-2014.

Tax preparation

The Fort Gordon Tax Center offers free income tax preparation help for Soldiers, civilians and retirees.

The center is open Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., through April 15, and is located at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate,

Building 29718, Room 118. Military members must see their unit tax advisor first; civilians and retirees must

Retention team visit

call 791-7812/7813.

The Department of the Army Mobile Retention Training Team from Fort Jackson, S.C., will conduct retention training for company and battalion level retention noncommissioned officers Monday-Thursday.

The training is 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily at the Gordon Club. Attendance is mandatory for all company and battalion reenlistment noncommissioned officers.

The late show on Saturday begins at ACAP/acap.htm. **Feb. 13-19** (No late show Feb. 14.) **Today - Lord of the Rings (PG-13)**

respective brigade, battalion, or group career counselors.

The post retention office is

have access to a career

counselor at 791-7387.

available for units that do not

Saturday - Lord of the Rings (PG-13)

Thursday - House of Sand and Frog (R)

Sunday - Lord of the Rings (PG-13)

FEW training program

Federally Employed Women is holding its Southeast Regional Training program Wednesday to Friday at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel in Augusta.

Registration is \$125; oneday on-site training is \$65.

Topics include Violence in the Workplace, Computer Security, the ABCs of Suicide Prevention, Mentoring and Teambuilding, Re-energizing and Staying Motivated, Identity Theft, Managing Multiple Priorities, Taking Charge of Your Success, How to Avoid Abusive Tax Schemes, Your Credit, Your Career and Your Future.

Call Judy Creer at 791-5653, creerj@gordon.army.mil.

Grants available

The Fort Gordon Officers' Wives' Club invites non-profit organizations to apply for a grant from its Welfare and Services Account. Applications must be received by **Tuesday**. To request an application, contact Jean DeLucio, OWC Welfare & Services, P. O. Box 7289, Fort Gordon, Ga., 30905, or call 792-9795.

Story hour

Woodworth Library hosts story hour each Wednesday from 11 a.m.-noon.

Children of active and retired military, and DoD civilians are invited to participate. The program is designed for children ages 2 through 5.

Volunteer readers are also needed for story hour. For

Post Exchange patrons. information, call Liz Knight or Joyce Daniels at 791-7323.

Surviving military separation

Army Community Service offers a support group for deployed Soldiers' spouses. This is an opportunity for spouses to share ideas and strategies on how to cope with stress associated with the servicemember's ab-

The class is held from 1-2:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in Darling Hall, Room 367. For information call 791-3579/7557.

Bible study

The Fort Gordon Family Life Center presents a Bible study for adults titled Family Life According to the Bible from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Sundays at the Religious Education Center, Building 39709. Other classes are available for all ages. For information, call 791-4703.

Scholarships

The Augusta-Fort Gordon Chapter, Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association will again award scholarships this spring to high school and college students. Applications are accepted through March 30.

The \$1000 scholarships are given by AFCEA to encourage the study of engineering, math and computer sciences. There is also a \$1500 and \$2000 scholarship available to top rated applicants.

To be eligible, candidates must be full-time students at accredited institutions, majoring in computer science, engineering or related field, or be an AFCEA

Applications and information are available on the AFCEA website at www.afcea-



Sports & Leisure

UPDATE

Pheasant hunt

Fort Gordon Outdoor Recreation is holding a ring neck pheasant hunt from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday at training area

Cost is \$11 for pheasants and \$4 for quail for members: nonmembers pay \$22 for pheasants and \$8 for quail.

The hunt is by reservation only. Call 791-5078 for information.

Dinner theatre

The play "Noises Off," a British "farce about a farce," is the next performance at the Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre today, Saturday, and Feb. 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28.

Dinner will be at 7 p.m., with the show following at 8. Tickets for the show are \$32 for civilians, \$30 for seniors ages 65 and above, retirees, Department of the Army civilians, active duty E-8 and above, \$20 for active duty E-7 and below, and \$15 for the show only. For information, call 793-8552.

Other sports news

Battalion Level Basketball - Battalions desiring to enter a team must submit their memorandum of intent by Feb. 23. The meeting with the coaches or a designated representative from the battalion is Feb. 26 in the Sports Office, Bldg. 29719.

For more information about the upcoming seasons, contact Al Robinson at 791-1142 or e-mail robinsona@ gordon.army.mil.

Circus scheduled

The Royal Hanneford Circus will be at Fort Gordon's Barton Field Feb. 26-29.

Showtimes are Feb. 26-27, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 28, 10:30 a.m., 2 and 7 p.m.; and Feb. 29, 2 and 4:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for ages 13 and over, \$5 for ages 3-12, and free for children under 3.

Tickets can be purchased at the Big Top entrance, Fort Gordon Credit Union and Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre.

Golf tourney

The 15th Signal Brigade is sponsoring the 2nd Annual AER Golf Tournament on April 2.

The four-person scramble includes a lunch buffet. Check-in starts at 10:30 a.m. The price is \$30 for GLGC members and \$40 for all others.

Complimentary beverages will be served on the course during the tournament and prizes will be awarded immediately following play.

1st Class Thomas Millward at 791-5913 or e-

Sign up by calling Sgt.

millwart@gordon.army.mil.

Aerobics classes

Come have fun, get in shape, and feel great with Jackie, a certified NDEITA aerobic instructor.

Free aerobic classes, sponsored by the Health and Wellness Center, are held Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:30 p.m., at Gym 4 on Barnes Avenue

For more information, call 787-6756.

SOCCER SHOUL

Post hosts boys, girls from eight states

Denise Allen Signal staff

Although Kristen Wyckoff has been playing soccer since she was about 7 years-old, the 13-year-old Greenbrier Middle School student has never played soccer in February.

"I lived in Michigan. You get to play soccer more here. You get to play in the winter," said Wyckoff, a member of the Augusta Arsenal Under-14 Viper soccer team, which lost in the finals of the Augusta **Arsenal Spring Shootout** tournament held at Fort Gordon's Barton Field Feb.

Soccer in Michigan usually doesn't start until the spring thaw – around April.

More than 120 boys and girls soccer teams from eight states participated in the 19th annual event, said tournament director Cary Rivers.

"The furthest traveled from New Hampshire," he

During the weekend, the parade field was divided into 22 soccer fields, where about 240 matches took

place. All of the teams were guaranteed to play at least three games, Rivers said.

Windy conditions made for a frigid weekend, said Judy Hamelburg, who traveled from Wilmington, N.C., to watch her son, Brian, play on the U-17 Cape Fear team.

The team ended the weekend with an 0-2-1 record.

"The weather was so dreadful," she said.

The whipping wind was an enemy to her son's team, she said. The contests didn't lend themselves well to showcasing the skills on his team.

"It was who got the luckiest," she said.

It was the first trip the team had made to the tournament, she said, which is a pre-season test to gauge players' skills.

She was impressed with the installation's hospitality. "Everyone was really

nice," she said. The spring shootout has been held at Fort Gordon for about 14 years. During its first few years, the tournament saw games scattered across the Augusta area at

Photos by Pvt. Armando Monroig

(Above) Soccer players chase after the ball during a game at Barton Field Saturday. (Below) The Blast (yellow shirts) from Hickory, N.C., defeated the North Meck Fury from Mecklenburg, N.C., 3 to 2.

schools and at the Family Y's fields on Wheeler Road.

Fort Gordon is large enough to consolidate the play, said Rivers.

The only drawback in this vear's tournament, he said, was finding a unit on post to run concessions.

With the 63rd and 67th Signal Battalions deployed to Iraq, the regular units which use the event to raise money weren't available. An Air Force detachment filled the duty this year.



Cardiovascular fitness ranks No. 1 for healthy lifestyle

George Colfer Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

Cardiovascular fitness, also known as cardiorespiratory fitness, pertains to the effectiveness of the heart, lungs and circulatory system to provide the cells of the body with the necessary substances to perform work

or activity for an extended period of time. Of the five health-related components (cardiovascular fitness, strength, muscular endurance, flexibility and body composition), CVF ranks as the top for a

healthy lifestyle.

The term aerobic activity, which means "with oxygen," is the key factor for CVF. One must be able to perform continuous activity at a heart rate which allows you to sustain the activity for its duration without going into "oxygen debt," which is termed anaerobic activity. Contrasting examples would be running a five- or 10kilometer run (aerobic) vs. a 100-meter dash (anaerobic), an all-out effort of short duration.

To benefit your heart, lungs and circulatory system, the exercise must involve large muscle groups so that the heart has to pump large quantities of blood. This makes more oxygen available to the muscles during exercise and increases their ability to use oxygen.

Activities such as brisk walking, running, bicycling, swimming, hiking, crosscountry skiing, rowing,

cardiovascular machines and endurance-type games are the modes of activity to

produce CVF. The basis for cardiovascular training is the frequency, intensity and duration of the activity. The American College of Sports Medicine and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have established guide-

lines and recommendations for the quality and quantity of the exercise to develop and maintain CVF.

A summary is as follows:

Physical activity of moderate intensity for as least 30 minutes per day for five days or more per week. Moderate intensity is considered activity that causes "small or moderate changes in breathing and heart rate."

> Activities such as brisk walking, some types of housework and gardening and bicycling for transportation may fall into this category. A guide for moderate intensity would be

activity.

up to 60 percent of one's maximum predicted heart

· Physical activity of vigorous intensity for at least 20 minutes per day for three days or more a week. Vigorous intensity is considered activity that causes "vigorous or large changes in the breathing and heart rate."

Activities such as Q: Will walking running, fulfill my CVF needs? swimming, A: It may depend upon road or your age, weight, mountain medical history and biking, hiking (with present physical condiclimbing) tion. Yes, brisk walking and games can improve and like fullmaintain CVF, but the court training guidelines still basketball apply. You must be able or soccer to elevate your heart may fall rate to your target zone. into this My opinion is that category. A walking is an excellent guide for vigorous mode for older people, intensity those recovering from would an illness or injury and a MPHR of good starting mode for above 60 the unfit individual. As percent to for a younger, healthy, 80 percent. fit individual such as To those in military serdevelop vices, I would recom-CVF, one mend more strenuous

must be able to sustain the activity for the selected duration. This is referred to as your "threshold of training," which involves your training heart

rate or the percentage of

MPHR at which you need to

train. To obtain your MPHR, the simplest way is to take the number 220 minus your age. Then multiply that figure by the desired percentage. The result is your

training heart rate. Since it is quite difficult to maintain a single heart rate throughout activity, another way is to establish a target zone. This a range of the minimum to maximum for your training session. It is much easier to stay within a range and still provide the necessary work.

As you continue to improve your CVF, your training heart rate will lower and drop out of your range, even though you are exercising the same. This is a sign that your heart and vascular system have adapted to the exercise, and it is now time to increase the intensity, frequency or duration.

In other words, run faster, run further or run more days, but do not increase all three at the same time or you may become a victim of fatigue or burnout.

A suggestion is to mix or alternate aerobic activities. As an example, run two days, strength train and use a cardiomachine two days and bike or hike on a weekend day. You are accomplishing your goal with less chance of boredom or

burnout. Another factor to mention is that all activities are specific in task. One may be a highly fit swimmer, but that does not automatically guarantee success in a

different activity such as running. One needs to train for those activities necessary in your profession. All military services have a fitness or readiness test as a requirement. For example, the Army has a two-mile timed run, the Marine Corps has a three-mile timed run. To excel on a task, one must

train for that task. To maintain the training effect, exercise must be continued on a regular basis. Significant reductions in fitness levels occur within about two weeks after training stops.

The goals and physiological benefits of aerobic training for CVF are as follows:

· To lower resting heart rate;

· To increase stroke volume (amount of blood ejected per contraction by the heart);

· To lower blood fat levels (cholesterol lower LDL, raise HDL);

· To lower blood pressure;

· To lower body fat content (percent of body fat vs. lean body weight);

· To increase caloric expenditure (for weight control); and

· To maintain healthy, elastic arteries.

(Colfer holds a Ph.D. and is the retired department chair for kinesiology and health, University of Texas at San Antonio. He is a contributing writer for the Fort Huachuca Scout newspaper.)

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200-299 NOTICES				
Business Opportunities 2	00			
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Miscellaneous Notices 2	a٢			

Miscellaneous Notices 300-399 WANT ADS Help Wanted Work Wanted Wanted to Buy 320 330 Wanted to Trade Wanted to Rent 340

Wanted to Rent	J4
Miscellaneous Wanted	39
400-420 REAL ESTATE FOR SAI	Æ
Real Estate Notice	40
Commercial Property	40
Lots & Land	40
Homes For Sale	40
Condos/Townhouses	41
Mobile Homes For Sale	41
Miscellaneous	42
425-455 REAL ESTATE FOR REI	۱T
Apartments For Rent	42
Commercial Rentals	42

Condos/Townhouses.

Mobile Homes For Rent

Homes For Rent.

Mobile Home Lots	44
Rooms	44
Vacation Rentals	45
Miscellaneous Rentals	45
460-700 ITEMS FOR SALE	
Agricultural Items	46
Antiques	46
Appliances	47
Auctions	49
Baby Items	50
Cameras	51
Computers	52
Farm Equipment	
Furniture	54
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YARD SALES

THREE FAMILY YARD SALE Saturday, February 14. Baby items, furniture, craft items, Christmas items, etc. 704 Porter Carswell Road, Waynesboro. Turn onto 4th Street at hospital, continue to Porter Carswell Road and then follow signs. 8 a.m. to noon. Rain or

Waynesboro, Georgia, will sell by public YARD SALE Saturday, February 14 auction to the highest bidder the per- Kingsridge Drive, Highway 17 North, sonal property of: Missy Kelly, #23; Ter- Millen, 9-12. TV, VCR, bicycle (26"), ri Habersham, #25; Willie Lee Osborne, knick knacks, dishes, clothes, miscella-

AFRICAN BRAIDS for express salon quality braids, cornrows and twist without high salon prices call Clarece 706-799-0453.

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miles, cruise, tilt, AM/FM cassette, power locks and windows, clean, runs great 6 3/4 bed, emerald with gold, aluminum 478-982-5932.

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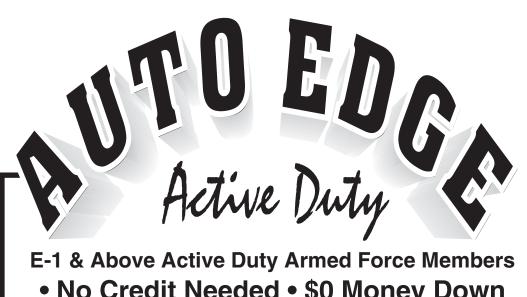
Condos/Townhouses

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Luxury for less, 76K miles. Nice highway sedan \$0 down, 0 credit needed



2001 DODGE

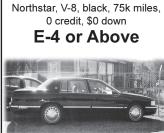
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Thomson, Georgia



Government Seized and Bank Repossessed vehicles are among the most sought after bargains in the automotive industry. Every day, thousands of these vehicles are unloaded at private auctions to licensed car dealers

only. Normally unavailable to the public, for one week only these bargains will be

made open to everyone for as long as vehicles remain.

This Thursday, February 12th through Monday, February 16th, Thomson Motor Centre will bypass the auction houses and sell directly to the public. Over 120 vehicles including lease returns, rental vehicles and dealer trades will be eliminated at thousands below normal retail prices.

Every preowned vehicle will be available for just \$99* down payment and then start making the payments. "To make the purchasing of these bargains even easier, all vehicles will be clearly marked with payments on the windshield. Just pick your vehicle, and pick your payment. You won't

find a faster, easier way to purchase a vehicle," said Billy Ciccio, Used Car Manager of **Thomson** Motor Centre. "Almost every type of vehicle at every price range will be available, from luxury sports cars to basic transportation, with many still under warranty"

Due to the uniqueness of this sale, representatives from several financing institutions will be available looking to finance as many people as possible. "We'll have over \$4 million in financing available for this event, so chances are we can arrange financing for just

about anyone who is employed, regardless of past credit history," said Mr. Ciccio. Trade-ins

will be

accepted and will receive top dollar. Customers are encouraged to bring their title or payment book to expedite delivery.

This type of sale may never be seen again in the CSRA. Some vehicles left after this sale ends at 8:00p.m. on Monday, February 16th, will be sent to the auction houses as usual. Questions can be directed to (706) 597-0062. This sale is located at 2158 Washington Road off I-20 exit 172 in Thomson, Georgia.

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A REPUTABLE AUTO DEALER to \$1,900 or best offer. 478-982-3007, tilt steering, four cylinder, bedliner, help you establish or restore your credit. E-1 and up. No money down, financing 1978 CHEVROLET IMPALA 706-650- James after 6 p.m. 706-554-3385 on quality automobiles. 706-733-9049 anytime. We love to lend money.

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2003 GMC SONOMA SLS Four cylin- 1997 DODGE INTRIPID heavy miles. 770 der, automatic, air, power steering, air \$3,500 or best offer. 706-651-0921. bags, cruise, AM/FM/CD, alloy wheels, 8,500 miles, factory warranty. No calls after 8:30 p.m. \$11,995. 706-541-1691.

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Spectrum

MPs learn tactics from master teacher

Sgt. Ryan Matson Signal staff

"You come here, baldhead!"

It was the words I dreaded, because I knew there was pain soon to follow.

Let me get to the point of this story - or more specifically - the pressure point. From Jan. 26 to 30, 15 military police and myself got some expert training in the use of pressure points and defense tactics for law enforcement purposes at the Richmond County Sheriff's Office Training Center.

The main instructor was Master Giao (John) Nguyen, a sixth Dan and master of Tai Chi, Shaolin, Korean and Japanese traditional martial arts, as well as a certified law enforcement defensive tactics instructor for Richmond County. And I, more often than not, was the training

"There are more

than 200 pressure

points in the hu-

man body, and if

you control one of

control the entire

them, you can

person."

dummy, meaning I got to experience Nguyen's mastery firsthand.

Nguyen's assistant instructor for the week was W. Archer

Bell, a public safety instructor with the Augusta State Medical Prison for the North Georgia Corrections Academy headquartered in Alto, Ga. Together, the pair teach law enforcement officers defensive tactics and pressure point training, or using sensitive areas throughout the body to control subjects.

The men taught Fort Gordon MPs several tactics practical to a patrolman's daily duties, as well as how to react to various emergency situations, such as encounters with perpetrators possessing a deadly weapon. The men demonstrated each maneuver, breaking them down to its simplest level, before letting the class pair off and practice them. Many of the exercises utilized pressure points, focusing on the 14 approved for use by the U.S. law enforcement in particular, spanning from a person's head to their legs.

"There are more than 200 pressure points in the human body," Nguyen explained, "and if you control one of them, you can control the entire person."

Through their demonstrations, video analysis and advice from real-life experiences, the instructors shared techniques that could one day prove lifesaving.

Nguyen knew what he was talking about. He had served as an officer in the South Vietnamese Army, fighting side-by-side with U.S. Soldiers in the Vietnam War. He completed training in the Special Forces, Airborne and Ranger schools there, and even survived a five-year stint as a prisoner of war in a Communist prison, eating only a bowl of rice with salt a day. He escaped with his two-year-old son, spending nine days tossing about the ocean in a 42-foot-long boat before being picked up by the U.S. Navy.

Later, after coming to the United States, Nguyen attended technical school and became a service manager for Richmond County Transportation and opened his own martial arts

school in 1986. Nineteen of his students graduated as black belts. He then undertook a career in law enforcement, having already experienced and survived the horrors of war and handto-hand combat.

"Don't look at movies, movies suck," the old man said. "They are only to impress. The real deal is very dangerous. I tell you my stories because they show you defensive tactics are not as easy as you think."

By sharing his experiences, the small, 142-pound Asian man immediately gained the young Soldiers respect and adulation.

"He's an awesome instructor, he knows his stuff," said Spc. Chris Knight.

Nguyen showed the same high degree of respect for his young pupils. He proudly displayed a letter from one

of his martial arts students serving in Iraq.

"I am proud of you guys, keep going, never give up," he said. "I love you all because you fight for a country which has done so

many good things for me." For Bell, teaching defensive tactics is also a very serious matter, and for good

"Our corrections officers don't have handguns, batons or pepper spray," Bell said. "Their only defense is handto-hand."

Still, Bell said these officers use tactics like the ones the class learned to control some of the state's most dangerous criminals everyday at the maximum security Augusta State Medical Prison.

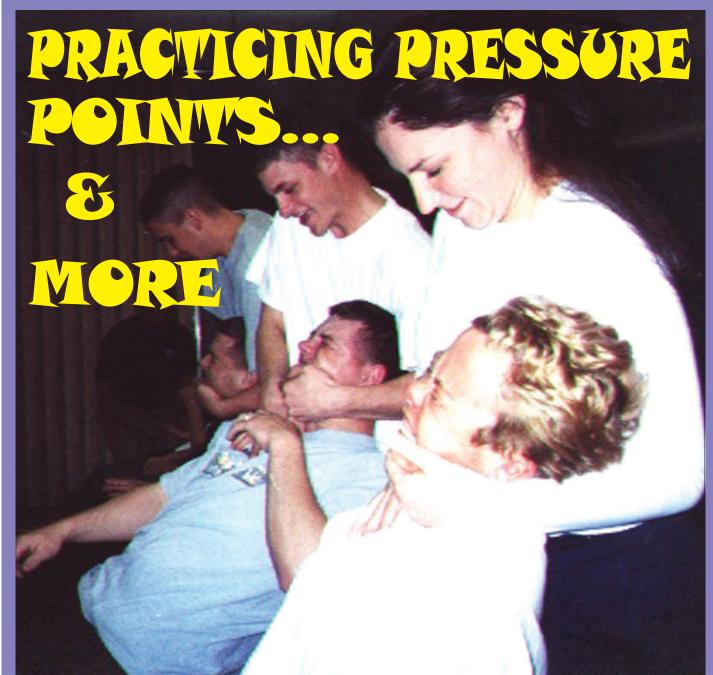
While teaching the class subjects such as pressure point training, a system developed 22 years ago by a retired St. Louis police officer, Bell kept the class fresh by maintaining his sense of humor.

"I'm glad to be here because it got me out of prison," Bell joked when he met the class.

Bell began the week with a day-long lecture on the use of force and factors which must be considered when applying it, such as legal, medical and tactical factors. Tuesday, the practical applications of pressure points and defensive tactics began with Nguyen leading the students through various measures of escorting a prisoner using joint lock control. This showed students how simply a person can be controlled using basic holds. On Wednesday, Nguyen and Bell went through the 14 emphasized pressure points from the head to the legs, teaching students how to apply pressure properly to each one before allowing them to practice on one another. In the afternoon, Nguyen showed the MPs how to dodge and disarm an attacker with a knife. He even showed the class how to fend off several attackers using one knife.

On Thursday, the MPs suited up in their belts, and made use of two of the objects contained within them - handcuffs and the

ASP baton. Archer Bell demonstrated

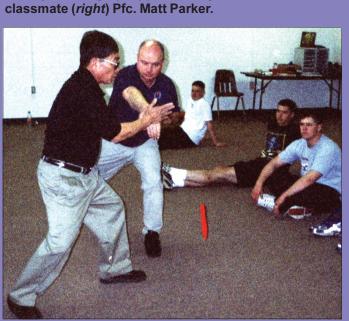


Photos by Sgt. Ryan Matson Military police from post practice pressure point techniques that they learned during a defense tactics class

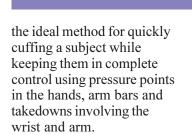


held at the Richmond County Sheriff's Office Training Center from Jan. 26 to 30.

Pfc. Ryan Blough (left) practices gun tactics with



Master Giao Nguyen, defensive tactics instructor (left), demonstrates how to defend against a knife attack with Archer Bell (right) assistant instructor.



Nguyen showed the class how to use an ASP baton more effectively.

Friday Nguyen taught the group what to do if a subject pulls within striking distance. He showed how this deadly situation can quickly be turned completely around with a few quick and easy movements. The week concluded with a 50 question test which covered all the knowledge gained throughout the week.

One of the major points Nguyen stressed during the week is that in a combat situation, it is imperative to never underestimate the



Nguyen demonstrates a pressure point on a practice "dummy."

enemy. He emphasized that an MP should always control the subject, and not allow the throughout the week.

subject to control the MP. "Don't wait until you lose the cow to build the fence," he said.

As with any skill, Nguyen reminded the class using proper technique when practicing defensive tactics



one of the class participants.



Parker strikes a training pad with his baton.

will lead to optimum results. "Perfect practice makes perfect," he repeated

Finally, the wise old teacher offered a last bit of advice to his young pupils. "Always be strong and confident, and good luck," he said.

Spc. Sara Lee Gripper

said the knowledge she gained could make a big difference if she encountered serious trouble on patrol.

"If I ever encounter a situation, I know what to do now," she said. "I won't be scared, because now I know what to do in those situations.'